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West Virginia And Her Population

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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by
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VEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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Summary

For those who have a part in the development and carrying out of public policy, an understanding of population movement and change in the State is essential. The facts about the State population presented herein indicate some sobering thoughts for consideration. The fact that the population is growing older is not unusual. Neither is the fact that the number of females in the State population is increasing. But these facts seem to be complicated by indications that out-migration is attracting males who are in their most productive years. This means that greater occupational attraction for males must be made by the State or else its activities may need to be more oriented to the contributions of women and older people.

The "saturation" picture of the State relative to population indicates that the entire State is facing a problem in keeping up with the movement of technological development. If new bases for economic support of a population and new technological developments are not forthcoming, the State will not have a continually increasing population base from which to draw the financial resources to provide the standard of living which its population will desire. The median income picture for the State puts it in a rather unfavorable position in our modern, competitive nation.

Further knowledge about migration of the State population is needed. Changes within the State provide differing sizes and types of groups for district and local policies to cover. The changing age and sex ratio of the population provides a continually changing group of people to which policies must be suited. When migration operates to further complicate the changes in age and sex-ratio of a State population, it is often easy for policies to be improperly oriented to the public they are trying to serve.

West Virginia and Her Population

J. JOEL MOSS

THIS report was prepared to provide a ready reference for some of the most relevant facts about the population of West Virginia. The first half of the report covers details and trends of population growth and change in the State from 1900 to 1950. The second half indicates general characteristics of the State population in 1950. Emphasis is placed on analyses of the population trends and characteristics by counties and other sub-groupings. Special attention is given to changes occurring in population characteristics over the 1940-1950 decade.

POPULATION GROWTH AND CHANGE, 1900-1950

At the turn of the century, West Virginia had a population of nearly one million (958,000). This population had almost doubled by 1950. Greatest increases came in the years 1910-1930 when the State was fed by a high birth rate and by a flow of immigrants, many from Europe. The increases grew smaller with each decade after 1930 until the 1955 Census reports indicated that the State was losing population faster than it was gaining it.

There were 464,704 births and 171,254 deaths in the State from 1940 to 1950. The natural increase (excess of births over deaths) for the decade was, therefore, 293,450. The total increase in the State population from 1940 to 1950, as reported by the U. S. Census, was only 103,578. This means that the State lost 189,872 persons from the total natural increase. Had the State kept all of the increase, its 1950 population (without the benefit of any migration into the State), would have been 2,195,424 instead of 2,005,552. Thus, the State lost 9 per cent of its potential 1950 population. This trend to outmigration provided the reason for finding a decreasing population in 1955.

While the State population was expanding and diminishing, changes were occurring in its residential location. In 1900, 13 per cent of the population was classified as Urban, the remainder Rural. The Rural Non-Farm category was first used in 1920. At that time, 25 per cent of the State population was Urban, 42 per cent Rural Non-Farm, and 33 per cent Rural Farm.

The Urban population increased steadily from 1920 until it comprised 34.6 per cent of the population in 1950. The Rural Non-Farm population had small percentage increases over the decades. The Rural Farm population gradually declined until, in 1950, it comprised only 20.5 per cent of the State population.

A general picture of the change in the Rural-Urban residence in the State is given in Table 1, which also indicates, by decades, the size of the population and compares the rate of increase in the State with that of the United States as a whole. Figure 1 provides a graphic picture of the changes in Rural-Urban distribution of the State population, by decades, from 1910 to 1950.

Age Groupings in the State

One of the most important influences on policies which must serve the public is the age grouping of the population. What has happened to the age groupings of the population in West Virginia? The median age (the age at which half the population was older and half younger) was 20.3 years in 1900. This had increased to 26.3 years by 1950. This indicates a continuing increase in the ratio of older people to those of younger ages.

In 1900, 68 per cent of the State population was under 30 years of age. This had dropped to 60 per cent by 1950. The greatest influence on this drop was the decreasing birth rate, but the State experienced also an increase in the proportion of people aged 65 years and over from 1900 to 1950. In 1900, 3.5 per cent of the State population was in this older age group. This percentage had risen to 6.8 per cent by 1950. Interestingly enough, the first sizeable increase in the older population in any one decade took place during the depression years (1930-40). Table 2 gives a picture of the changing age groupings of the State population from 1900 to 1950.

Sex-Ratio of the Population

The female population of the State has gradually been catching up with the male population. There were 39,684 more males than females in 1900. This gave a sex-ratio of 108.6 (108.6 males per 100 females). The excess of males in 1950 was only 7,022 or a sex-ratio of 100.7.

A steady increase in the female population occurred until 1930. Since that time the rate of increase has been getting smaller, but still exceeds that of the males. Males have experienced a continually declining rate of increase with each decade since 1900. The population

TABLE 1. POPULATION GROWTH IN WEST VIRGINIA, 1900-1950, BY RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE,. WITH PERCENTAGE CHANGE FOR EACH DECADE COMPARED WITH PERCENTAGE CHANGE FOR THE UNITED STATES AS A WHOLE

YEAR	POPULATION IN W. VA.	PER CENT CHANGE FOR W. VA.	PER CENT CHANGE U. S. POP.	URBAN POP. IN W. VA.	PER CENT OF W. VA. POP. URBAN	RURAL POPULATION IN W. VA.*		PER CENT OF W. VA. POP. RURAL	
1900	958,800	—	20.7	125,465	13.1	833,335		86.9	
1910	1,221,119	27.4	21.0	228,242	18.7	992,877		81.3	
						RURAL NON-FARM POP. IN W. VA.	PER CENT OF W. VA. POP. RURAL NON-FARM	RURAL FARM POP. IN W. VA.	PER CENT OF W. VA. POP. RURAL FARM
1920	1,463,701	19.9	14.9	369,007	25.2	618,063	42.2	476,631	32.6
1930	1,729,205	18.1	16.1	491,504	28.4	789,951	45.7	447,750	25.9
1940	1,901,974	10.0	7.2	534,292	28.1	836,230	44.0	531,452	27.9
1950	2,005,552	5.4	14.5	694,487**	34.6	900,143	44.9	410,922	20.5
				640,606	31.9	953,319	47.5	411,627	20.5
1955	2,001,000	—0.2	8.5	na +	na	na	na	na	na

*Rural Non-Farm designation was not utilized until the 1920 Census.

**A new definition of Urban population was used in 1950. Figures for 1950 were shown in the Census for both old and new Urban definitions.

+Not ascertainable.

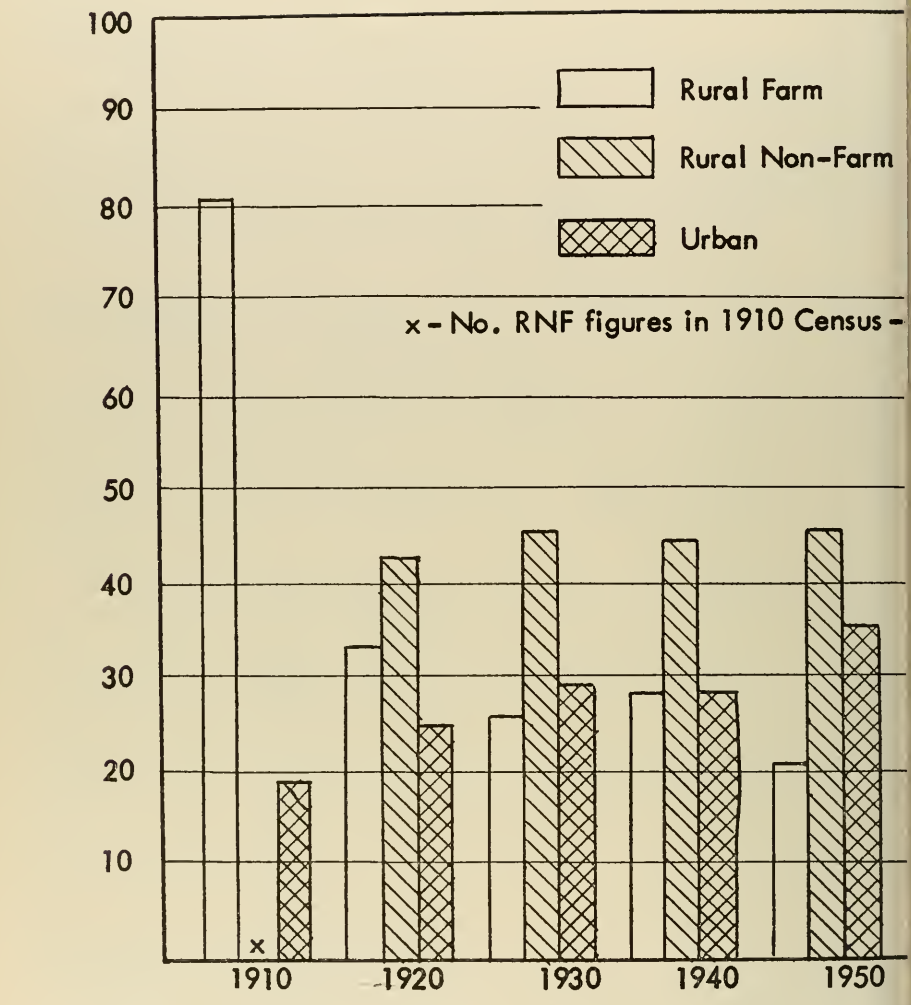

FIGURE 1. Rural-Urban distribution of West Virginia population, 1910-195

of the State increased by 37,705 males and 65,873 females from 194 to 1950.

In what age groupings has the sex-ratio changed the most? Mal and females make up about the same percentage of the State populatio in the group 65 years and over. The major increase in females has bee in the 15-34 age group, in which they now outnumber the male

TABLE 2. AGE-GROUP BREAKDOWN OF THE WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION N 1900 AND 1950, WITH THE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN POPULATION OVER THE PREVIOUS CENSUS PERIOD EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGES

AGE GROUP	PER CENT OF POPULATION 1900	INCREASE IN PER CENT OVER PREVIOUS DECADE					PER CENT OF POPULATION 1950
		1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	
0-4	14.1	—.3	— .4	—1.4	—1.7	+1.7	12.0
5-9	12.7	—.6	+ .5	+ .1	—2.6	+ .1	10.2
0-14	11.5	—.8	+ .5	.0	— .4	—1.3	9.5
5-19	10.8	—.6	— .5	+ .5	+ .6	—2.5	8.3
0-24	10.1	—.1	—1.1	.0	— .2	—1.1	8.0
5-29	8.3	+.5	— .8	— .4	+ .6	— .3	7.9
0-34	6.7	+.5	— .3	— .1	+ .4	— .1	7.1
5-39	5.5	+.9	+ .5	— .4	.0	+ .4	6.9
0-44	4.8	+.2	+ .3	+ .2	+ .2	+ .4	6.1
5-49	3.8	+.1	— .8	+ .2	+ .2	+ .2	5.3
0-54	3.4	+.2	+ .1	+ .4	+ .2	+ .3	4.6
5-59	2.5	.0	+ .1	+ .5	+ .5	+ .3	3.9
0-64	1.9	+.1	+ .2	+ .2	+ .5	+ .4	3.3
5-69	1.4	+.1	+ .1	+ .1	+ .6	+ .5	2.8
0-74	1.0	.0	+ .1	+ .1	+ .3	+ .4	1.9
5+	1.0	.0	+ .1	+ .2	+ .2	+ .6	2.1

This appears to be an age group in which the State loses some of its male opulation by migration. However, had the females not experienced greater decrease in birth rate during the 1930-1940 period than the ıales, there would probably now be more females than males in West 'irginia. Table 3 shows the breakdown of males and females by age roups relative to the total male, total female, and total State population, 900 and 1950.

One common method of portraying the age-sex breakdown of any opulation is by means of the age-sex pyramid. Since the percentages ı any one census age-grouping are small, the State pyramid does not :veal a distinct graphical picture of sex difference by age groups for the tate population. However, when we compare the State pyramid with milar pyramids of the Urban, Rural Non-Farm and Rural-Farm opulations, some differences appear. These pyramids are presented in igures 2-5.

The Urban pyramid exhibits a smaller percentage of people in the ounger age groups than is true of the State pyramid. But it exhibits a ırger percentage of population in ages 20-35 than is true for the State. 'he Rural Non-Farm pyramid is much like that of the State but does xhibit a greater concentration of population in the 0-14 age group. 'he Rural-Farm pyramid stands out most distinctly because of its heavy ercentage of population in the 0-19 age group, a sudden drop in per-entage in the 20-35 age group, and greater concentration of population fter age 35.

TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE AND FEMALE POPULATION BY AGE GROUPINGS, 1900 AND 1950, WITH PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL STATE POPULATION, 1950

AGE GROUP	FEMALES		PER CENT OF FEMALES IN TOTAL STATE POPULATION 1950	MALES		PER CENT MALES IN TOTAL STATE POPULATION 1950	EXCESS OF MALES OVER FEMALES IN PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STATE POPULATION 1950
	PER CENT OF TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION 1900	PER CENT OF TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION 1950		PER CENT OF TOTAL MALE POPULATION 1900	PER CENT OF TOTAL MALE POPULATION 1950		
0-4	14.4	11.8	5.9	13.9	12.2	6.1	+ .2
5-9	13.0	10.1	5.0	12.4	10.4	5.2	+ .2
10-14	11.8	9.4	4.7	11.4	9.7	4.8	+ .1
15-19	11.1	8.5	4.3	10.6	8.0	4.0	— .3
20-24	10.1	8.3	4.2	10.1	7.6	3.8	— .4
25-29	8.2	8.1	4.0	8.5	7.7	3.9	— .1
30-34	6.5	7.3	3.6	6.8	6.9	3.5	— .1
35-39	5.3	6.9	3.4	5.7	6.8	3.4	.0
40-44	4.6	6.1	3.0	4.9	6.1	3.1	+ .1
45-49	3.8	5.3	2.6	3.9	5.3	2.7	+ .1
50-54	3.2	4.5	2.2	3.5	4.7	2.4	+ .2
55-59	2.5	3.8	1.9	2.5	4.0	2.0	+ .1
60-64	1.9	3.1	1.6	1.9	3.4	1.7	+ .1
65-69	1.4	2.8	1.4	1.4	2.9	1.5	+ .1
70-74	1.0	1.9	.9	1.0	2.0	1.0	+ .1
75+	1.0	2.1	1.1	1.0	2.1	1.1	.0
Total	100.0	100.0	49.8	100.0	100.0	50.2	

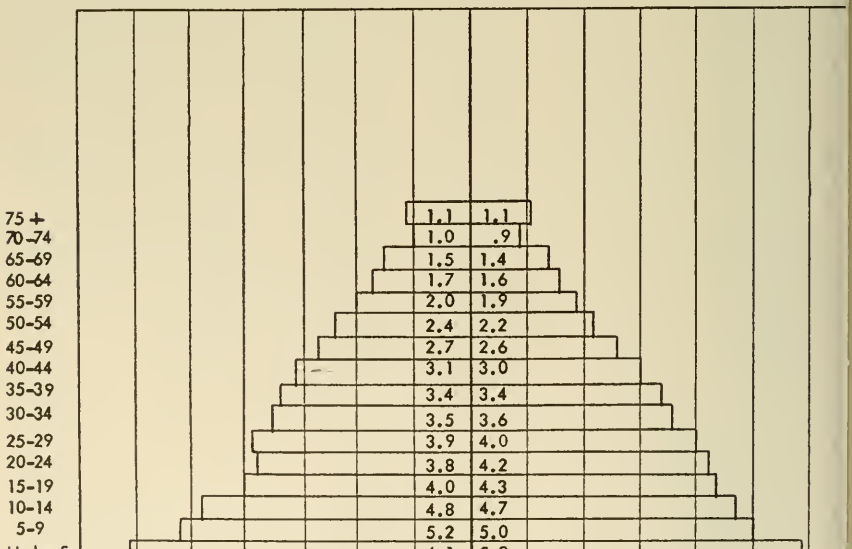

FIGURE 2. Percentage breakdown of West Virginia population, by age and sex, 1950.

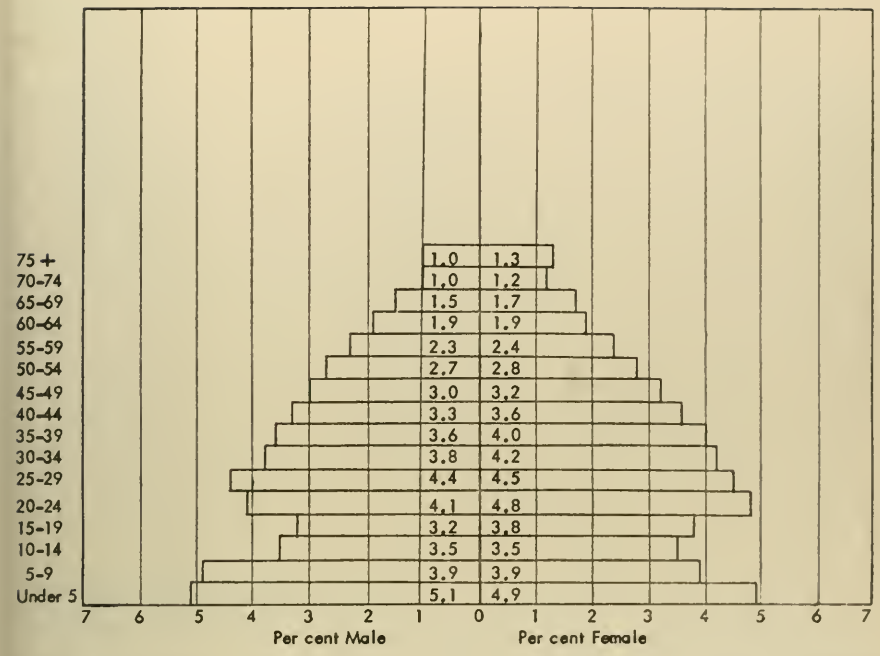

FIGURE 3. Percentage breakdown of Urban population in West Virginia, by age and sex, 1950.

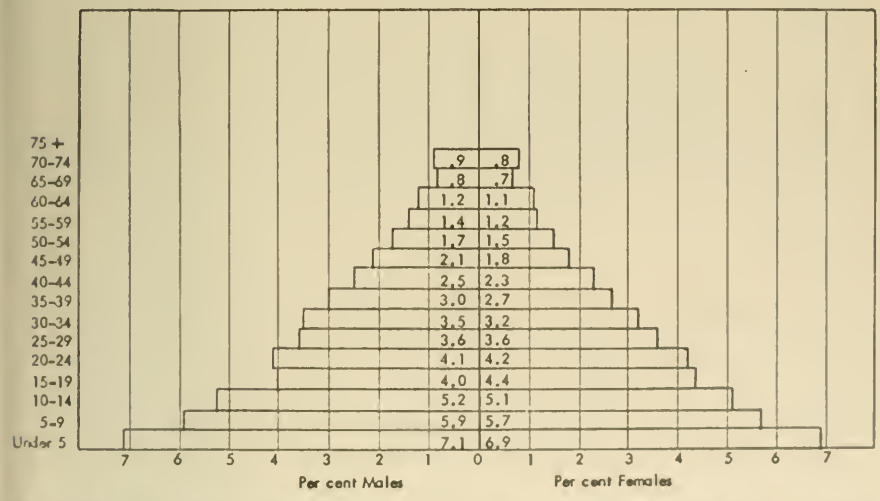

FIGURE 4. Percentage breakdown of Rural non-Farm population in West Virginia, by age and sex, 1950.

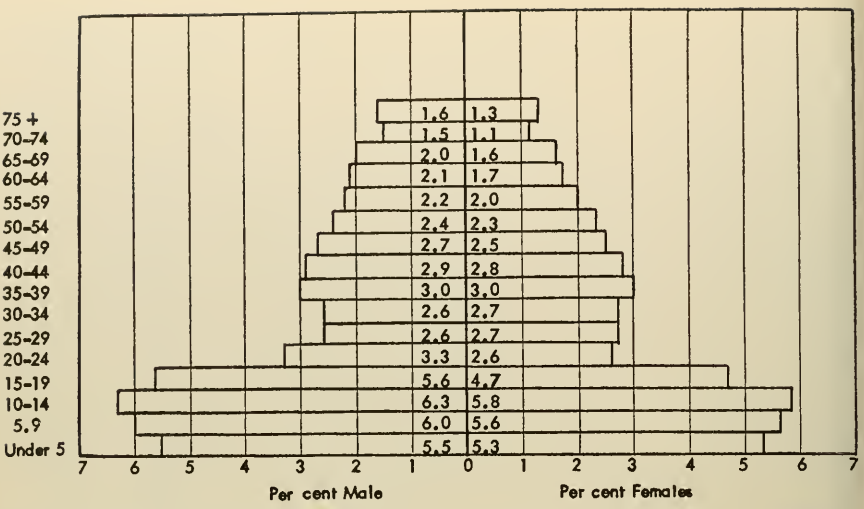

FIGURE 5. Percentage breakdown of Rural-Farm population in West Virginia, by age and sex, 1950.

A more detailed picture can be given by showing the percentage breakdown of the population by age, sex, and residence. Females outnumber males in the Urban population but not in the Rural. Males exceed females in all age groups in the Rural Non-Farm population, except the 15-29 age group. Males exceed females in all age groups in the the Rural-Farm population except the 25-34 age group. Males exceed females only in the baby years (0-4) in the Urban population. (See Table 4.)

TABLE 4. PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF 1950 POPULATION OF WEST VIRGINIA BY AGE, SEX, AND RESIDENCE

AGE GROUP	URBAN		RURAL NON-FARM		RURAL FARM	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
0-4	5.1	4.9	7.1	6.9	5.5	5.3
5-9	3.9	3.9	5.9	5.7	6.0	5.6
10-14	3.5	3.5	5.2	5.1	6.3	5.8
15-19	3.2	3.8	4.0	4.4	5.6	4.7
20-24	4.1	4.8	3.8	4.4	3.3	2.6
25-29	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.2	2.6	2.7
30-34	3.8	4.2	3.6	3.6	2.6	2.7
35-39	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.0
40-44	3.3	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.8
45-49	3.0	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.5
50-54	2.7	2.8	2.1	1.8	2.4	2.3
55-59	2.3	2.4	1.7	1.5	2.2	2.0
60-64	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.2	2.1	1.7
65-69	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.1	2.0	1.6
70-74	1.0	1.2	.8	.7	1.5	1.1
75+	1.0	1.3	.9	.8	1.6	1.3
Total	48.3	51.7	50.8	49.2	52.3	47.7

Nativity of the Population

In 1900, 93 per cent of the total population of the State was native-born white, 4.6 per cent non-white, and 2.3 per cent foreign-born white. The native-white population made up nearly the same percentage of the State population in 1950 as in 1900 (92.5 per cent), but the non-white population had increased to 5.8 per cent. The peak of the non-white population growth in the State has apparently passed. It came in 1930, when non-whites made up 6.6 per cent of the State population.

The foreign-born population reached its peak in 1910 when it comprised 4.7 per cent of the State population. It comprised 1.7 per cent of the State population in 1950. Figure 6 charts the changes in the percentage of non-whites and foreign-born whites from 1900 to 1950. Approximately one-third of the non-white population, in 1950, resided in the eight counties (Kanawha, Putnam, Cabell, Wayne, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke and Hancock) which make up the Standard Metropolitan Areas of the State.

Standard Metropolitan Areas

The Standard Metropolitan Area represents a geographical unit employed by the U. S. Census Bureau for categorizing comparable urbanization areas. This unit is made up of cities of 50,000 population or over (called Central Cities) together with their urban fringes and the rest of the counties within which these lie. West Virginia has three Central Cities, Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling. The concept of the Standard Metropolitan Area allows for the crossing of State lines. Thus, in the Huntington and Wheeling areas, the total Metropolitan Area includes some counties in Kentucky or Ohio.

The eight counties in West Virginia which are included in the three Standard Metropolitan Areas contained nearly one-third (32 per cent) of the total State population in 1950, including about one-third of the total non-white population. Table 5 gives a breakdown of the State population by sex and metropolitan-non-metropolitan county residence, and includes the extent of increase or decrease in these resident populations from 1940 to 1950.

In the eight metropolitan counties, the burden of population growth for both males and females is concentrated outside the Central Cities. The Central Cities seem to have reached a static position as far as population growth is concerned. In the non-metropolitan counties population increase appears only in the cities of 10,000 and over.

A look at the age and sex distribution of the population in these metropolitan-non-metropolitan residence groupings indicates where

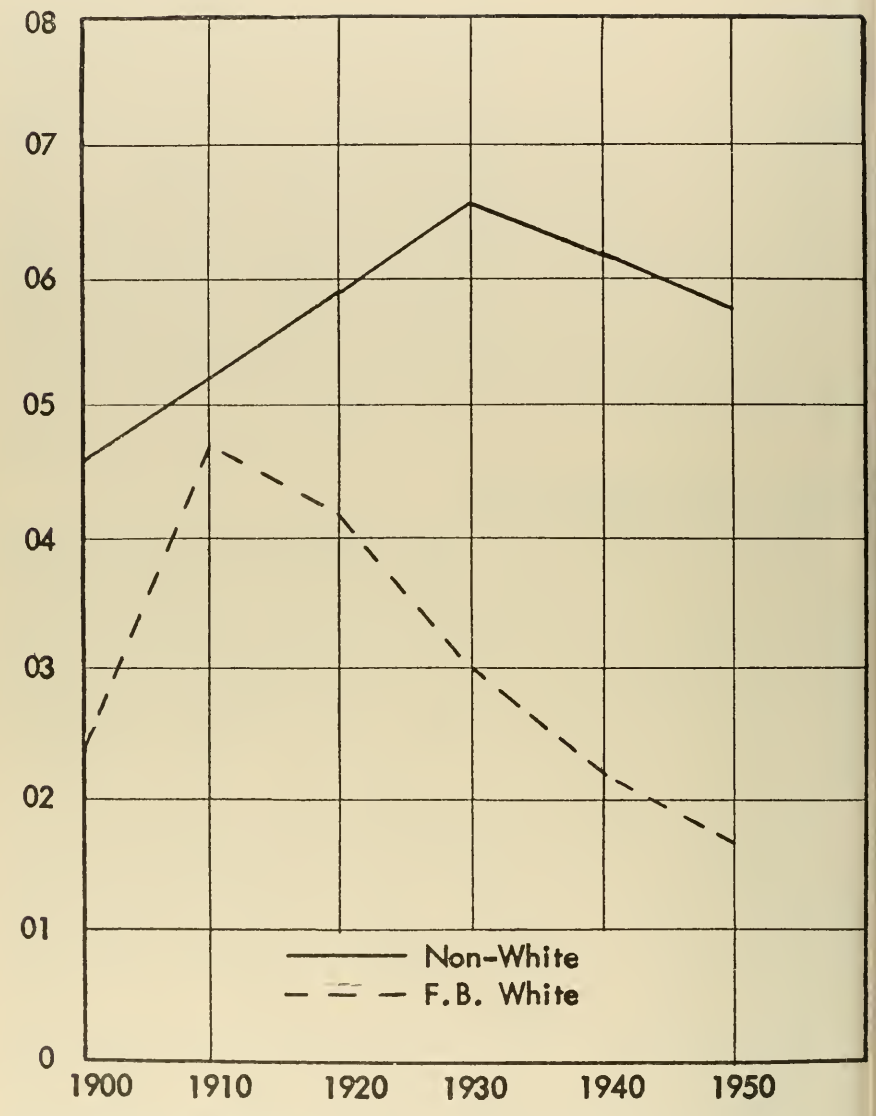

FIGURE 6. Percentage of non-white and foreign-born whites in West Virginia population, 1900-1950.

population growth and loss is occurring. In the metropolitan counties, a general decrease appeared in age groups 10-24. In the non-metropolitan

Table 5. Percentage Breakdown of the Population of West Virginia by Sex and by Metropolitan-Non-Metropolitan Classification, In 1940 and 1950, With Indication of Increase or Decrease in Per Cent

Met-Non-Met Classification	Males			Females		
	1950	1940	Per Cent Diff.	1950	1940	Per cent Diff.
'er Cent of Population in Metropolitan Counties	31.4	30.3	+1.1	32.3	30.7	+1.6
'er Cent of Population in Central Cities	10.3	10.3	.0	11.6	11.6	.0
'er Cent of Population in Rest of Metropolitan Counties	21.1	20.0	+1.1	20.7	19.2	+1.5
'er Cent of Population in Non-Metropolitan Cities of 10,000 or Over	8.2	7.4	+ .8	9 .0	8.3	+ .7
er Cent of Population in Rest of Non-Metropolitan Counties	60.3	62.4	—1.9	60.3	61.0	— .7

ounties, the decrease extended from age 10 through age 29. Popula- ion decrease occurred among males in more age groupings than was true or females. The greatest range of age groups with population decrease ppeared in the Central Cities. The least range appeared in the non- ietropolitan cities of 10,000 and over. Table 6 indicates the age group- ngs, by sex and by metropolitan-non-metropolitan residence, in which decrease in population occurred from 1940 to 1950. All age groupings hich do not appear in this table experienced some population growth ver the decade.

'ABLE 6. Age Groupings, by Sex and Metropolitan-Non-Metropolitan County Residence, Which Lost Population from 1940-1950

Residence Groupings	Age Groupings in Total Resident Population	Age Groupings in Male Population	Age Groupings in Female Population
etropolitan Counties	10 - 24 years	10 - 24 years	10 - 24 years
Central Cities	10 - 29 years	10 - 39 years	10 - 34 years
Rest of Metropolitan Counties	10 - 24 years	10 - 34 years	10 - 19 years
on-Metropolitan Counties ..	10 - 29 years	10 - 34 years	10 - 24 years
Cities of 10,000 and over	10 - 19 years	10 - 19 years	10 - 19 years
Rest of Non-Metropolitan Counties	10 - 29 years	10 - 34 years	10 - 29 years

It appears that any population growth in the State is associated with the more urbanized areas. The U. S. Census reports categorize the urban population in three ways: Urban Places, Central Cities, and Urbanized Areas. Urban Places include all places with 2,500 or more population. There were 61 Urban Places in West Virginia in 1950. This was 16 more than in 1940. Three of the 61 Urban Places were Central Cities, with populations of 50,000 and over; 11 had populations of 25,000-50,000; 15 of 5,000-10,000, and 32 of 2,500-5,000. The Central Cities plus their "urban fringe" of smaller Urban Places make up the Urbanized Areas. The Urbanized Areas of West Virgina contained 14.6 per cent of the total State population in 1950.

Counties

Fourteen counties had less population in 1950 than they had in 1900. Mason County was the only one of these 14 which did not lose population from 1940 to 1950. Seventeen counties had increases in population of 1 to 50 per cent from 1900 to 1950. Population loss was experienced in 13 of these 17 counties from 1940 to 1950. Thus, of the 31 counties mentioned above, 26 lost population from 1940 to 1950, accounting for all but two of a total of 28 counties which lost population during the decade.

Twelve counties had an increase of 51 to 200 per cent in population from 1900 to 1950.[1] Two of these counties lost population from 1940 to 1950 (Clay and Webster). Twelve counties had more than a 200 per cent increase from 1900 to 1950. These twelve counties were Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, Mingo, McDowell, Raleigh, and Wyoming. None of the twelve lost population during the 1940-1950 decade. These 24 counties with population increases of over 50 per cent from 1900-1950, have carried the burden of population growth in West Virginia.

The State is divided into three magisterial divisions. A look at county population growth within these divisions will help locate the sections of the State most responsible for population growth and for population loss. Figure 7 indicates the magisterial districts and the amount of loss or gain in population by counties from 1900 to 1950.

[1]Monongalia County, on the basis of Census figures, appeared to have a percentage increase of over 200 per cent since 1950. However, approximately 5,000 of the 1950 population of the county was accounted for by students, from outside the county, attending the University. These students were included in the 1950 Census figures for Monongalia County. The presence of students at other colleges in the State would affect the percentages for other counties. However the influence would be smaller and, therefore, has not been considered in the report.

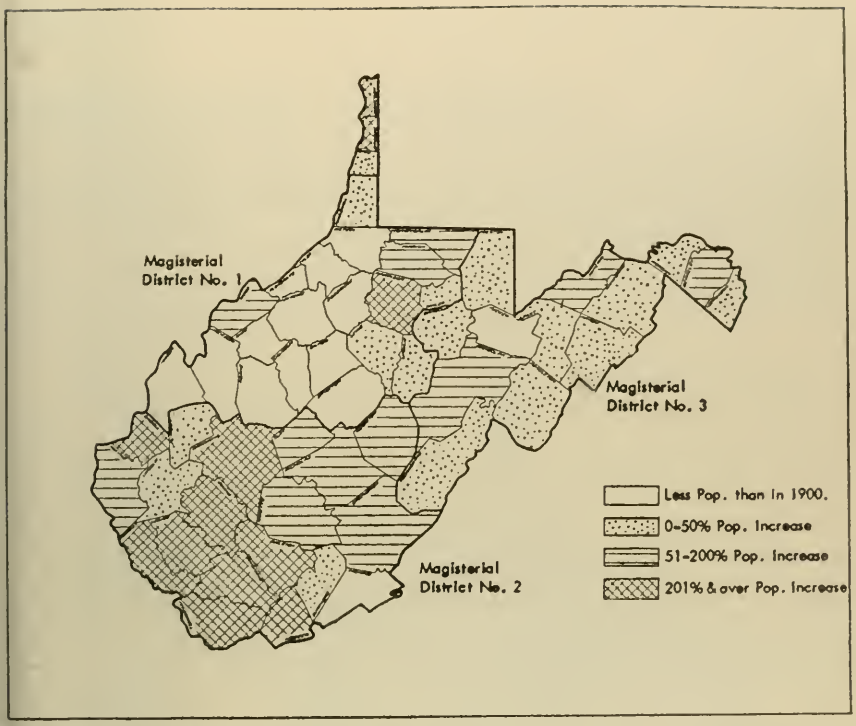

FIGURE 7. Percentage gain or loss in population of West Virginia counties, by magisterial districts, 1900-1950.

A. District One: This district includes the northwestern part of the State. Twenty-two counties are involved in this district and half of them had less population in 1950 than they had in 1900. This section has suffered the greatest population loss in the State. Fifteen of the 22 counties lost population from 1940 to 1950. The growth here has come largely from Monongalia, Hancock, Brooke, Harrison, Wood, and Marion counties.

B. District Two: This district includes the 20 counties in the southern part of the State. Population growth has been a general characteristic of these counties. Much of the state's population growth is a result of the growth in this magisterial district. Monroe County was the only one that lost population from 1900 to 1950. Clay and Monroe counties lost population from 1940 to 1950.

C. District Three: The eastern part of the State comprises the third magisterial district. No large population growth appears in any of the 13 counties involved and seven counties lost population from 1940 to 1950. Tucker is the only county smaller in population than it was in 1900. Randolph, Mineral, and Berkeley counties show the most growth in this district.

When we compute the natural increase in population for the counties (the excess of births over deaths), and look at 1950's potential population, the picture looks even less rosy. The potential population is found by taking the 1940 census figures and adding the

amount of natural increase from 1940 to 1950. The differences between this potential and the 1950 census figure is the amount of gain or loss of population. The percentage gain or loss is found by dividing the amount of gain or loss by the 1950 potential.[2] Kanawha and Wyoming were the only counties which did not lose population when viewed in terms of potential 1950 population. All other counties lost some population, even though their 1950 census total may have been greater than the 1940 census total.[3] (See Figure 8.)

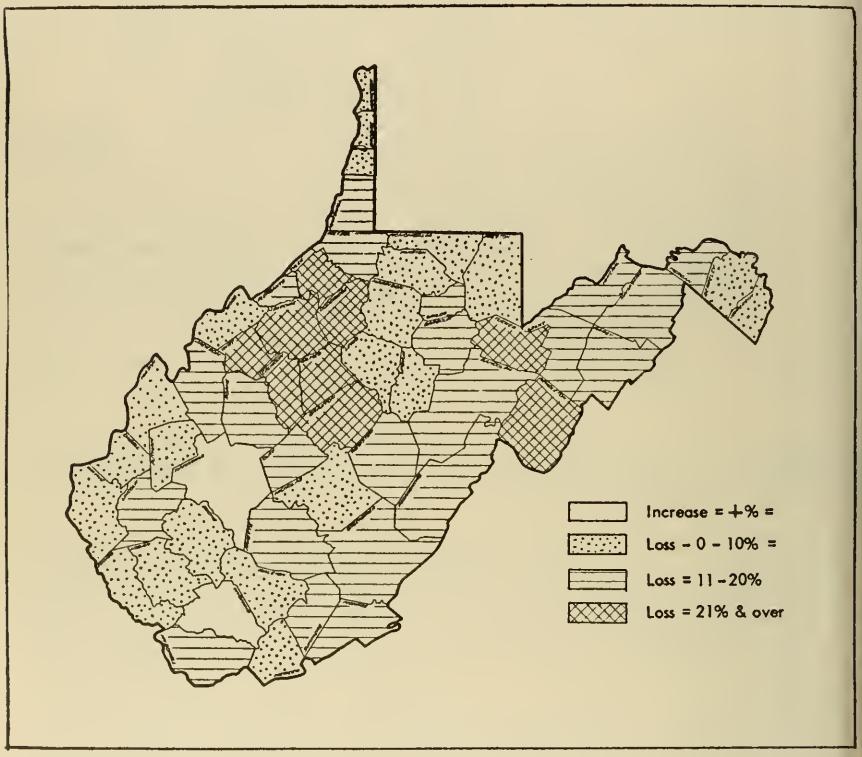

FIGURE 8. Percentage gain or loss of population in West Virginia counties from 1950 potential population.

A detailed account of population growth and change for each county, including the natural increase, general loss by migration and

[2]For example: If a county had a population of 50,000 in 1940 and a natural increase of 10,000, the potential 1950 population would be 60,000. If, in the 1950 Census reports, the county population was reported as 54,000, it would mean that the county had a loss of 6,000 from its potential population. The percentage loss is found by dividing the 6,000 by the potential population of 60,000, giving a 10 per cent loss.

[3]Monongalia County must again be considered differently. When the 5,000 student population is substracted from the county population, the county exhibits a 5 per cent loss of population rather than a 4 per cent gain.

extent of gain or loss of population relative to the potential population in 1950, is given in Table 7.

Population "Saturation" in West Virginia

The concept of "saturation" as used here, refers to the size of population which may be absorbed by a county, given its present resources and the extent of its technological development. This concept does not suggest what is the optimum population for a county. It simply reflects the absorption capacity of the county at the present. Expansion of the resources of a county through technological change could alter its "saturation" point.

Using the percentages in Figure 8 as a rough basis for analysis, it appears that practically all counties in varying degrees have reached their saturation point. Kanawha and Wyoming are the only two that have not yet reached "saturation." Twenty-two counties lost from 1 to 10 per cent of their potential 1950 population; 22 counties lost from 11 to 20 per cent; and nine counties lost 21 per cent or more.

The above figures give no indication of possible migration into the State. However, if any people migrated into West Virginia, it means that the counties lost even more of their potential population than Figure 8 indicates. Where is out-migration occurring? It is occurring all over the State!

West Virginia's Future Population

What may West Virginia expect in the future as far as population growth is concerned? It is evident, of course, that any expectations will be influenced by changes in the "saturation" point of the counties. Without considering these changes, certain estimates of the future population can be gleaned from the U. S. Census, based upon what has happened in the past. The census estimates are based on differing assumptions about the pattern of birth rates and migration in the future. Therefore, any use of the estimates should take into consideration the assumptions under which they were made.

Perhaps the most accurate future population picture for the State can be given by indicating the largest and smallest estimates made by the U. S. Census. This gives a range within which future populations will usually fall, according to past census trends. The highest estimates would be 2,059,614 in 1960 and 2,130,855 in 1965. This would be an increase of about 125,000 people from 1950 to 1965. Such an increase would be less than half the natural increase in West Virginia from 1940 to 1950! The lowest estimates of population growth in the State would

TABLE 7. POPULATION CHANGE IN WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES, 1900 TO 1950, AND 1940 TO 1950, WITH BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, NATURAL INCREASE, EXTENT OF POPULATION INCREASE, 1940-1950, POTENTIAL 1950 POPULATION AND PERCENTAGE LOSS OR GAIN FROM 1950 POPULATION POTENTIAL

COUNTY	POPULATION 1900	POPULATION 1940	POPULATION 1950	PER CENT CHANGE 1900-1950	PER CENT CHANGE 1940-1950	TOTAL BIRTHS 1940-1950	TOTAL DEATHS 1940-1950	NATURAL INCREASE* 1940-50	POP. INCREASE 1940-50 (FROM CENSUS)	TOTAL POP. GAIN OR LOSS** 1940-50	POTENTIAL POP.† 1950	PER CENT GAIN OR LOSS OF 1950 POP. POTENTIAL‡
Barbour	14198	19869	19475	37.2	— 0.6	4365	1804	2561	— 394	— 2955	22430	— .13
Berkeley	19469	29016	30359	55.9	4.6	6015	3126	2889	1343	— 1546	31905	— .05
Boone	8194	28556	33173	304.8	16.2	8380	2011	6369	4617	— 1752	34925	— .05
Braxton	18904	21658	18082	— 4.3	—16.5	4502	1608	2894	— 3576	— 6470	24552	— .26
Brooke	7219	25513	26904	272.7	5.5	4909	2162	2747	1391	— 1356	28260	— .05
Cabell	29252	97459	108035	269.3	10.9	23462	10499	12963	10576	— 2387	110422	— .02
Calhoun	10266	12455	10259	— .1	—17.6	2591	825	1766	— 2196	— 3962	14221	— .28
Clay	8248	15206	14961	81.4	— 1.6	4238	1030	3208	— 245	— 3453	18414	— .19
Doddridge	13689	10923	9026	— 34.1	—17.4	1649	881	768	— 1897	— 2665	11691	— .23
Fayette	31987	80628	82433	157.1	2.3	21201	6194	15007	1805	—13202	95635	— .14
Gilmer	11762	12046	9746	— 17.1	—19.1	1944	833	111	— 2300	— 3411	13157	— .26
Grant	7275	8805	8756	20.4	— 0.6	2036	768	1268	— 49	— 1317	10073	— .13
Greenbrier	20683	38520	39295	90.0	2.0	9422	3357	6065	775	— 5290	44585	— .12
Hampshire	11806	12974	12577	6.5	— 3.1	2723	1188	1535	— 397	— 1932	14509	— .13
Hancock	6693	31572	34388	413.8	8.9	7488	2477	5011	2816	— 2195	36583	— .06
Hardy	8449	10813	10032	18.7	— 7.2	2200	838	1362	— 781	— 2143	12175	— .18
Harrison	27690	82911	85296	208.0	2.9	18181	7701	10480	2385	— 8095	93391	— .09
Jackson	22987	16598	15299	— 33.4	— 7.8	3230	1434	1796	— 1299	— 3095	18394	— .17
Jefferson	15935	16762	17184	7.8	2.5	3767	1917	1850	422	— 1428	18612	— .08
Kanawha	54696	195619	239629	338.1	22.5	56515	17544	38971	44010	+ 5039	234590	+ .02
Lewis	16980	22271	21074	24.1	— 5.4	3792	3490	302	— 1197	— 1499	22573	— .07
Lincoln	15434	22886	22466	45.6	— 1.8	5353	1637	3716	— 420	— 4136	26602	— .16
Logan	6955	67768	77391	1012.7	14.2	21798	5406	16392	9623	— 6769	89160	— .08
McDowell	18747	94354	98837	427.5	4.8	29252	8025	21227	4533	—16694	115581	— .14
Marion	32430	68683	71521	120.5	4.1	15187	6455	8732	2838	— 5894	77415	— .08
Marshall	26444	40189	36893	39.0	— 8.2	6952	3803	3149	— 3296	— 6445	43338	— .15
Mason	24142	22270	23537	— 2.5	5.7	5243	2323	2920	1267	— 1653	25190	— .07
Mercer	23023	68289	75013	225.8	9.8	16397	6066	10331	6724	— 4265	78620	— .05
Mineral	12883	22215	22333	73.4	0.5	5520	2249	3271	118	— 3153	25486	— .12
Mingo	11359	40802	47409	317.4	16.2	12987	3142	9845	6607	— 3238	50647	— .06

County	Population 1900	Population 1940	Population 1950	Per cent Change 1900-1950	Per cent Change 1940-1950	Total Births 1940-1950	Total Deaths 1940 1950	Natural Increase* 1940-50	Pop. Increase 1940-50 (From Census)	Total Pop. Gain or Loss** 1940-50	Potential Pop. 1950†	Per Cent Gain or Loss of 1950 Pop. Potential‡
Monongalia¹	19049	51252	60797	219.2	18.6	12240	4971	7269	9547	+ 2278	58521	+ .04
			(55797)	192.9	8.9	—	—	—	4547	— 2722	—	— .05
Monroe	13130	13577	13123	— .1	— 3.3	2791	1222	1569	— 454	— 2023	14699	— .14
Morgan	7294	8743	8276	13.5	— 5.3	1842	891	951	— 467	— 1418	8245	— .17
Nicholas	11403	24070	27696	142.9	15.1	6316	1750	4566	3626	— 940	28636	— .03
Ohio	48024	73115	71672	49.2	— 2.0	14484	8477	6007	— 1443	— 7450	79122	— .09
Pendleton	9167	10884	9313	1.6	—14.4	2050	840	1210	— 1571	— 2781	12094	— .23
Pleasants	9345	6692	6369	— 31.8	— 4.8	1265	666	599	— 323	— 922	7291	— .13
Pocahontas	8572	13906	12480	45.6	—10.3	2739	1249	1490	— 1426	— 2916	14996	— .19
Preston	22727	30416	31399	38.2	3.2	6695	2689	4006	983	— 3023	34422	— .09
Putnam	17330	19511	21021	21.3	7.7	4424	1474	2950	1510	— 1440	22461	— .06
Raleigh	12436	86687	96273	674.1	11.1	24542	6708	17834	9586	— 8248	104521	— .08
Randolph	17670	30259	30558	72.9	1.0	7648	2718	4930	299	— 4631	35189	— .13
Ritchie	18901	15389	12535	— 33.7	—18.5	2591	1348	1243	— 2854	— 4097	16632	— .28
Roane	19852	20787	18408	— 7.3	—11.4	3943	2289	1654	— 2379	— 4033	22441	— .18
Summers	16265	20409	19183	17.9	— 6.0	4430	1928	2502	— 1226	— 3728	22911	— .16
Taylor	14978	19919	18422	23.0	— 7.5	3883	2023	1860	— 1497	— 3357	21779	— .15
Tucker	13433	13173	10600	— 21.1	—19.5	2532	1106	1426	— 2573	— 3999	14599	— .27
Tyler	18252	12559	10535	— 42.3	—16.1	1991	1196	895	— 2024	— 2919	13454	— .22
Upshur	14696	18360	19242	30.9	4.8	4232	1854	2378	882	— 1496	20738	— .07
Wayne	23619	35566	38696	63.8	8.8	8136	2676	5460	3130	— 2330	41026	— .06
Webster	8862	18080	17888	101.8	— 1.1	4915	1265	3650	— 192	— 3842	21730	— .18
Wetzel	22880	22342	20154	— 11.9	— 9.8	4612	2032	2480	— 2188	— 4768	24922	— .19
Wirt	10284	6475	5119	— 50.2	—20.9	1012	589	423	— 1356	— 1779	6898	— .26
Wood	34452	62399	66540	93.1	6.6	14137	6444	7693	4141	— 3552	70092	— .05
Wyoming	8380	29774	37540	348.0	26.1	9410	2054	7356	7766	+ 410	37130	+ .01
Totals and Averages	958800	1901974	2005552	109.0	5.4	464704	171254	293450	103578	—189872	2195424	.09

*Natural increase is the excess of births over deaths in the period given.

**Total Population Gain or Loss, 1940-50, refers to the gain or loss indicated by the U. S. Census plus or minus that indicated in natural increase. If, for example, a county lost population according to the census, it lost all its natural increase plus the loss indicated by census figures.

†Potential Population 1950 refers to the figure obtained by adding the natural increase to 1940 census figures.

‡Percentage gain or loss of 1950 population potential is obtained by dividing the total gain or loss from 1940-1950 by the 1950 potential population figure.

¹Monongalia County is given special treatment since it numbers in its 1950 census about 5,000 students at the University who come from outside the county. Figures show the position of the county with and without the student population considered.

be 1,959,222 in 1960 and 1,942,845 in 1965. This would represent a loss of about 63,000 people between 1950 and 1965, besides the loss of all natural increase. Thus, West Virginia's 1965 population may be anywhere from 3 per cent smaller to 6 per cent larger than its 1950 population.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WEST VIRGINIA'S POPULATION, 1950

Dependency in the State

The aging of the West Virginia population has been a consistent trend from 1900 to the present. With the population growing older, and with a changing birth rate, the question arises: "How much of the population is in the working-age group, and how much is dependent?" A general evaluation of the extent of dependency may be found by using the dependency ratio. This defines the working-age population as the group aged 20-64. The dependency ratio is computed by figuring the ratio of those 65 years or over and under 15 years of age per 100 (or 1,000) persons in the working-age group.

The extent of dependency is not as great in West Virginia now as it was in 1900. It is not concentrated so heavily in the group under 15 years of age. Decreases in the birth rate plus an increase in the number of aged people in the State suggest that different types of dependency demands may now appear. The increase in those 65 years of age and over in the population has taken a noticeable upturn since 1930.

Analysis of the dependency ratio must consider that in 1950 there were 2,844 more females than males in the State's 20-64 age population. Since the majority of the labor force is made up of males, it appears that the problem of dependency in the state is greater than the dependency ratio might indicate. In 1950, the dependency ratio in the State was 72.8. This means that there was less than one dependent person for every person in the working-age group. Figure 9 shows the changes in dependency ratio in the State from 1900 to 1950.

Where in the State is the dependency ratio greatest? The ratio is highest in the Rural-Farm population and lowest in the Urban population. Though the Urban has the lowest total dependency ratio, it does carry a higher load of aged dependents than the Rural Non-Farm population. Table 8 indicates the dependency ratio of the State by rural-urban residence.

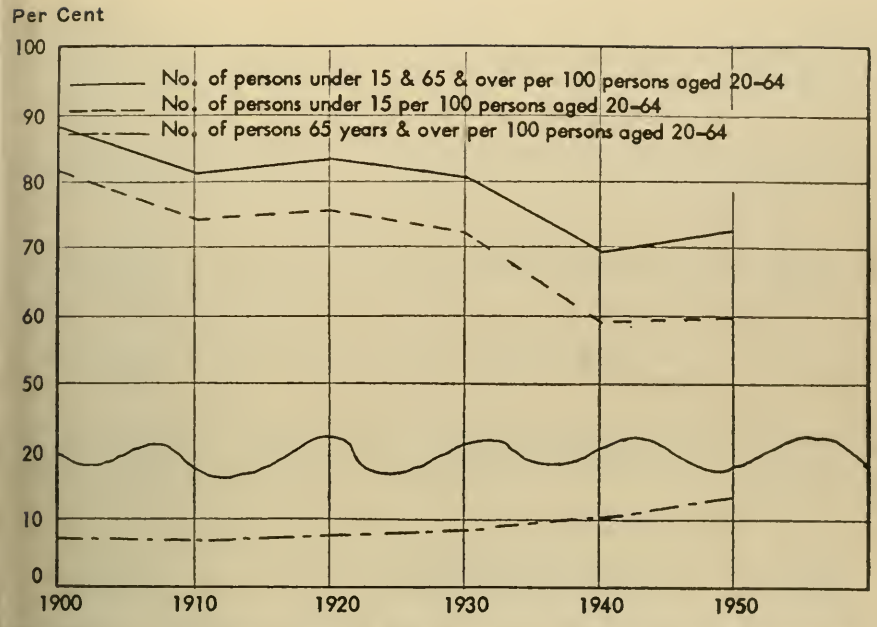

FIGURE 9. Dependency ratio in West Virginia, 1900-1950, with separate ratio for those 15 years and under, and 65 years and over.

TABLE 8. RATIO OF POPULATION UNDER 15 AND OVER 65 YEARS, TO POPULATION 20-64 YEARS, BY RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE, 1950

DEPENDENCY RATIO	STATE	URBAN	RURAL-NONFARM	RURAL-FARM
Persons under 15 years and 65 + per 100 persons 20-64 years	72.8	53.6	81.7	94.2
Persons under 15 years per 100 persons 20-64 years	59.8	41.0	71.0	74.8
Persons 65 + years per 100 persons 20-64	13.0	12.6	10.7	19.5

A check of the census figures seemed to indicate that the small cities were carrying a relatively heavy dependency load. However, when the cities were checked by dependency ratios (see Table 9) this idea was not substantiated. On the basis of metropolitan-non-metropolitan county residence, the dependency ratio was found to be greatest in the more rural areas and least in the Central Cities. Over the 1940-1950 period, the ratio of dependents under 15 years remained fairly constant. The ratio of those 65 years and over increased by at least three or more

Table 9. Population Characteristics of Urban Places (2,500 Population and Over) in West Virginia, 1950

Urban Place	Sex Ratio	Dependency Ratio	Fertility Rate	Median Years of School Completed	Median Income Family & Unrelated Individuals	Median Income Family Only	Per Cent Change in Population Since 1940	Per Cent Population Non-White	Per Cent 15 Years and Over Married	Per Cent 15 Yrs. Over Widowed or Divorced	Ratio of Population Over 65 Years to 20-64 Years Population
CITIES OF 10,000											
Beckley	92.0	48.8	34.0	10.7	$2912	$3271	50.9	24.4	52.2	8.5	8.9
Bluefield	92.0	49.3	32.8	10.9	2572	3194	4.2	24.0	50.1	8.7	10.9
Charleston	89.2	49.2	30.3	11.3	2980	3621	8.2	9.8	51.2	10.0	10.7
Clarksburg	90.7	51.2	33.2	10.9	3062	3435	4.7	2.9	53.2	8.8	14.1
Fairmont	88.6	50.3	31.8	10.3	2870	3299	27.0	6.1	52.2	8.7	13.4
Huntington	90.0	52.3	30.1	10.3	2631	3054	9.5	5.2	51.7	9.5	12.7
Martinsburg	89.1	53.6	35.9	8.8	2548	2888	3.7	5.2	51.4	10.6	12.0
Morgantown	110.2	44.4	30.6	11.7	1875	3154	53.3	1.6	48.3	7.0	11.2
Moundsville	116.9	53.2	42.4	8.5	2463	2825	4.3	2.0	49.1	9.1	13.8
Parkersburg	84.3	55.8	32.7	10.4	2874	3364	— 1.4	2.2	52.1	10.6	18.8
So. Charleston	96.0	52.1	40.9	12.1	4054	4250	60.8	1.0	55.0	5.8	6.2
So. Parkersburg	98.4	65.8	38.1	8.6	2618	2711	na	—	51.7	5.8	9.7
Weirton	104.3	52.5	40.1	8.6	3631	3841	na	5.4	51.3	5.6	7.0
Wheeling	88.9	54.4	32.6	9.0	2693	3125	— 3.6	3.4	49.5	9.7	17.2
PLACES OF LESS THAN 10,000											
Benwood	103.8	54.6	37.5	8.3	2879		— 3.4	.6	46.6	8.3	13.8
Buckhannon	88.3	57.6	37.5	10.4	1415		35.2	1.3	49.7	8.7	19.7
Charles Town	84.7	63.0	36.9	9.2	2139		3.7	24.6	47.6	10.9	21.6
Chesapeake	101.1	62.0	48.2	8.3	3105		na	9.7	49.0	5.1	8.0
Cora-Mt. Gay	101.2	67.5	52.9	8.1	2329		na	29.3	47.6	6.6	8.2
Dunbar	93.3	53.1	37.9	10.0	3384		52.5	.3	55.2	5.2	7.2
Elkins	95.2	57.0	35.0	11.0	2049		12.1	2.9	49.2	8.5	15.7
Follansbee	97.9	51.5	34.7	8.6	3220		— 8.3	.1	50.1	7.1	11.8
Gary-Ream	116.4	63.8	43.0	8.1	3243		na	48.6	46.7	6.0	6.4
Grafton	88.9	65.7	37.8	9.2	2665		— .9	2.5	49.9	9.5	19.6
Hinton	93.1	57.6	36.1	8.9	2816		— .6	8.9	50.6	10.3	17.3
Kenova	105.4	63.0	43.9	8.9	3020		10.7	.1	50.5	8.1	14.3
Keyser	94.6	57.5	37.6	9.6	2289		2.8	2.9	50.0	9.4	16.5
Keystone	106.6	51.4	35.9	8.4	2438		—11.8	45.5	50.0	7.9	8.0

Urban Place	Sex Ratio	Dependency Ratio	Fertility Rate	Median Years of School Completed	Median Income Family & Unrelated Individuals	Median Income Family Only	Per Cent Change in Population Since 1940	Per Cent Population Non-White	Per Cent 15 Years and Over Married	Per Cent 15 Yrs. Over Widowed or Divorced	Ratio of Population Over 65 Years to 20-64 Years Population
McComas	108.7	91.2	72.0	7.4	$2244		na	12.0	41.9	4.0	7.8
McMechen	90.3	51.9	36.7	8.9	3243		— 5.6	—	53.5	8.0	14.2
Mannington	85.0	68.7	33.1	9.2	2606		3.1	.8	51.5	9.5	21.9
Marmet	98.2	71.0	44.6	8.9	3557		38.6	.1	48.7	5.8	10.1
Montgomery	100.0	40.0	28.3	11.5	2625		7.8	14.3	50.8	9.8	11.0
Mt. Hope	89.6	60.7	36.9	10.5	2950		6.5	21.4	49.8	8.6	12.2
Mullens	100.6	49.8	37.2	10.2	2880		14.7	9.6	54.1	6.1	6.0
New Martinsville	83.7	56.5	43.4	10.1	2500		17.0	.1	51.5	8.0	18.2
Nitro	96.9	60.0	40.5	10.1	3426		11.1	.1	52.2	5.2	8.7
Oak Hill	95.9	55.1	37.5	9.2	3026		40.6	.2	52.2	7.4	10.0
Omar-Barnabus	106.8	84.3	60.9	7.9	2806		na	24.5	44.7	4.3	5.9
Paden City	94.9	56.3	44.3	8.5	2475		16.8	.9	52.6	7.8	15.0
Philippi	87.8	60.3	33.8	8.9	2313		29.5	.6	51.2	9.5	20.1
Piedmont	98.5	63.5	37.6	9.0	2645		— 4.2	13.7	48.5	7.2	16.5
Pt. Pleasant	92.0	71.1	43.0	9.0	2460		29.9	1.8	49.1	9.0	15.8
Princeton	88.6	53.9	33.6	10.1	2596		11.5	4.4	52.7	8.9	13.1
Richwood	97.1	68.2	46.3	8.7	2583		5.3	.4	47.6	7.0	13.0
St. Albans	98.0	64.2	54.4	12.1	4033		177.4	1.3	53.7	4.9	7.7
Salem	91.4	65.2	40.0	9.1	1861		.3	—	50.0	8.2	21.3
Shinnston	95.6	57.5	35.4	9.1	2807		.9	1.1	53.0	7.7	15.8
Spencer	84.3	60.0	33.3	8.8	2020		3.6	.1	52.1	10.1	18.9
Sprague	100.9	75.9	49.3	8.3	2596		na	13.1	45.5	5.6	10.4
Verdunville-Mudford	104.2	86.8	67.3	6.2	2396		na	.1	43.5	5.5	7.1
Vienna	93.8	68.5	45.1	9.0	2723		157.5	—	52.6	6.2	14.5
War	97.3	86.8	57.8	8.1	2411		212.6	9.9	45.5	5.0	6.2
Welch	102.6	41.0	41.4	10.2	2667		5.4	23.2	52.9	8.0	6.2
Wellsburg	96.4	60.0	39.8	9.0	3102		— 7.5	2.7	50.5	8.7	15.9
Weston	92.2	50.6	28.2	8.7	1892		8.2	.5	48.7	10.4	22.7
Westover	103.1	60.0	41.5	9.7	3383		146.5	.3	53.1	5.3	10.3
Wt. Sulphur Spgs.	94.3	51.2	34.3	10.3	1742		26.3	17.7	46.5	9.8	12.4
Williamson	100.7	54.1	38.7	8.9	2467		3.1	16.5	50.0	8.4	8.9
Chester	87.0	33.5	39.4	9.0	3080		— 1.2	.2	52.0	9.3	15.6

In the column on percentage of the population non-white, some cities are marked—meaning the percentage is too small to indicate.

persons in all residential areas except the areas of the metropolitan counties outside the Central Cities.

The greatest dependency ratio in cities over 10,000 is found in South Parkersburg (65.8), where there are many young people. Following South Parkersburg in dependency ratio are Wheeling, Martinsburg and Moundsville. Tables 9 and 10 give detailed population characteristics for each of the Urban Places and for the counties of the State Table 11 gives a ranking of these larger cities according to total dependency ratio, and for persons under 15, and 65 years and over separately.

Among the smaller towns, those with the most young people have the highest dependency ratios. Leading the list is McComas with a ratio of 91.2, of which 83.4 is accounted for by youngsters. McComas is closely followed by Verdunville-Mudford, War, Omar-Barnabus, and Sprague. Each of these towns ranks high in fertility rate when compared with the rest of the smaller towns in the State.

The highest ratio of aged population to the working-age population is found in Weston (22.7), followed by Mannington, Charles Town Salem and Philippi. The total dependency ratio in Weston is only 50.6 which is near the bottom of the total dependency rankings of the smaller towns. Table 12 gives the rank order of towns of 2,500 to 10,000 population in dependency ratio. It also indicates how much of the dependency ratio is accounted for by young and older people.

On a county basis, the dependency ratio is greatest in Clay (103.1 Lincoln (101.2), and Calhoun (97.6). In each case, most of the dependency is attributable to persons 15 years and under. At the other extreme, Ohio County has the smallest dependency ratio (56.4), followed by Cabell (57.5) and Hancock (58.3). The rank order of the counties by dependency ratio indicates that youngsters make up most of the dependency. However, enough discrepancies appear to suggest that a high birth rate will not be absolute evidence that a county will rank high in its dependency ratio.

Birth Rates in West Virginia

Changes in birth rates may be analyzed by use of the "fertility rate." The fertility rate is a ratio of the number of births occurring per 1,000 women of childbearing age. Childbearing age is usually figured on the basis of ages 15-45, 20-45, or 15-49 years. The latter figure was used in this report.

In 1940, the fertility rate for the State was 401.3. By 1950, it had increased to 479.0. The increase was widespread over the State. It was most noticeable in the cities of 10,000 and over; next in the Cen-

tral Cities. It was least noticeable in the metropolitan county areas lying outside the Central Cities.

Among the cities of 10,000 and over, the fertility rate varies from 301.0 (Huntington) to 424.0 (Moundsville). The range in the smaller towns, below 10,000 population, is from 282.0 (Weston) to 720. (McComas). Among the counties, Ohio has the lowest fertility rate (338.9), and Clay the highest (646.2).

On a rural-urban basis, the Rural-Farm rate (590.2) and the Rural Non-Farm rate (553.8) were above the fertility rate of the State (479.0). The Urban rate (351.5) was far below the State rate. Figure 9 gives a picture of the general decline in birth rate in the State from 1900 to 1950.

The impact of the "baby boom" of the 1940-1950 period tended to check the general declining trend of the birth rate. Where will it level off? On the basis of expected trends, the levelling off will likely be above the 1930-1940 rate, and below the 1940-1950 rate. Such an expectation appears feasible because the peak of the birth boom in the 1940-1950 period was reached before 1950.

School-Age Population and Enrollment in the Future

One major concern relative to the birth rate is the future school enrollment in the State. General predictions suggest a continuing increase of students through the 1960's. What can be seen from the census figures which might help in analyzing the situation? If census age-groups 5-24 are considered the school-age population, an increase is found from 1900 to 1940 in this group. From 1940 to 1950, a decrease occurred. There were 54,395 more persons of school age in the State in 1940 than in 1950. Part of this decrease is attributable to the declining birth rate and part of it to out-migration. From 1940 to 1950, there was an increase of 43,528 people, ages 0-4, so that by 1955 (without the effects of migration) one could expect a school-age population of 802,916. This would be 25,824 more than in 1940.

According to the U. S. Census figures, out-migration is occurring in West Virginia. Census estimates list the State population in July, 1955, as 2, 001,000—which is 4,552 less than in 1950. If we assume that the percentage of the population in the State, aged 5-24, changes at the same rate as that in the United States as a whole, 36.9 per cent of the State population should be aged 5-24 by 1955. This percentage of the estimated 1955 population is 738,369, or 16,010 more than the 1950 figures, but still 38,723 less than those of 1940.

A high and low estimate of future school-age population may be found by using the above procedure on the estimates of future popula-

Table 10. Selected Characteristics of West Virginia Population by Counties, 1950

County	Sex Ratio	Dependency Rate	Fertility Rate	Median Yrs. School Completed	Median Income of Families and Unrelated Individuals	Median Income of Families Only	Per Cent Population Non-White	Per Cent Population 65 Yrs. & Over Per 20-64 Yr. Population
Barbour	103.6	85.9	51.4	8.3	$1442	$1635	5.7	9.4
Berkeley	97.9	61.3	40.1	8.6	2324	2621	3.9	8.8
Boone	108.9	88.9	62.0	8.0	2523	2578	1.7	4.4
Braxton	102.9	92.5	53.0	8.1	1250	1378	0.6	9.8
Brooke	103.0	60.1	41.1	8.7	3069	3412	2.1	6.6
Cabell	93.1	57.5	36.2	9.3	2534	2894	4.2	7.6
Calhoun	103.3	97.6	55.0	8.2	1053	1150	.1	8.7
Clay	107.4	103.2	64.6	7.5	1616	1792	.4	5.9
Doddridge	104.2	86.3	51.6	8.3	1381	1573	—	11.0
Fayette	103.7	79.3	53.3	8.3	2501	2640	13.8	5.0
Gilmer	106.5	82.4	47.2	8.4	1201	1479	.2	9.3
Grant	103.2	87.7	55.2	8.2	1058	1272	2.8	8.5
Greenbrier	100.5	77.8	49.1	8.5	2074	2262	5.1	7.2
Hampshire	103.2	85.4	49.5	8.1	1353	1497	1.0	9.5
Hancock	101.8	58.3	41.2	8.7	3362	3596	3.9	5.5
Hardy	103.3	81.3	51.3	7.8	1228	1369	2.9	8.8
Harrison	96.6	65.4	41.3	8.9	2587	2890	1.9	8.3
Jackson	99.9	87.4	47.3	8.4	1270	1391	—	10.8
Jefferson	98.7	74.6	47.8	8.4	1792	2125	15.9	9.3
Kanawha	97.4	63.6	44.2	9.0	2977	3281	6.6	5.2
Lewis	97.3	69.7	39.5	8.6	1601	1853	.3	12.8
Lincoln	108.8	101.2	62.2	7.6	1496	1618	.2	6.5
Logan	107.7	81.3	60.6	7.6	2631	2760	9.4	3.3
McDowell	104.8	80.9	57.7	7.7	2527	2657	24.4	3.3
Marion	96.1	63.3	39.0	8.8	2663	2910	4.9	8.0
Marshall	107.6	61.8	43.3	8.5	2437	2719	.9	8.8
Mason	103.1	81.9	49.0	8.4	1756	1952	3.2	8.7
Mercer	98.3	68.3	44.1	8.6	2236	2478	11.2	6.2
Mineral	100.4	71.2	43.6	8.5	2053	2252	3.0	8.0
Mingo	104.2	89.6	62.9	7.7	2157	2230	5.8	4.2

TABLE 10 (CONTINUED)

COUNTY	SEX RATIO	DEPENDENCY RATE	FERTILITY RATE	MEDIAN YRS. SCHOOL COMPLETED	MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS	MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES ONLY	PER CENT POPULATION NON-WHITE	PER CENT POPULATION 65 YRS. & OVER PER 20-64 YR. POPULATION
Monongalia	107.9	59.8	41.4	8.8	$2187	$2786	8.8	6.9
Monroe	103.1	87.0	49.6	8.4	1265	1496	3.6	11.3
Morgan	100.3	77.7	48.6	8.2	1820	2033	1.8	9.1
Nicholas	106.2	88.9	59.5	8.3	2160	2299	.1	6.2
Ohio	91.4	56.4	33.9	8.9	2708	3104	3.7	10.0
Pendleton	104.7	83.4	48.8	8.2	1137	1266	1.6	9.0
Pleasants	101.2	79.2	47.9	8.5	1769	2096	.1	10.2
Pocahontas	109.9	81.0	50.6	8.2	1625	1800	5.1	8.8
Preston	106.1	84.4	55.0	8.3	1934	2165	.4	8.3
Putnam	104.0	85.6	52.6	8.3	2201	2300	.1	7.0
Raleigh	101.6	78.0	52.1	8.4	2496	2621	13.1	4.2
Randolph	106.2	81.2	50.3	8.5	1760	2092	1.3	8.0
Ritchie	100.8	84.2	47.7	8.4	1513	1727	.1	13.4
Roane	103.9	76.8	48.2	8.4	1456	1643	.1	9.2
Summers	96.8	74.8	43.8	8.4	1694	1955	5.4	8.0
Taylor	98.7	73.9	44.2	8.6	2192	2543	3.8	9.4
Tucker	100.7	89.4	48.4	8.3	1462	1686	.4	9.7
Tyler	95.3	82.9	45.3	8.5	1587	1898	.2	13.6
Upshur	98.0	79.8	49.2	8.4	1337	1666	.5	10.2
Wayne	101.5	87.9	52.8	8.3	1930	2070	.1	6.8
Webster	103.0	95.8	63.6	8.0	1988	2105	—	5.7
Wetzel	99.3	78.7	47.8	8.5	1903	2168	.2	9.5
Wirt	105.4	89.5	47.2	8.4	1173	1294	.4	11.7
Wood	93.1	66.9	41.5	8.8	2591	2862	1.0	9.4
Wyoming	109.4	88.7	64.1	8.1	2441	2545	6.0	3.3

TABLE 11. RANK ORDER OF CITIES OF 10,000 AND OVER POPULATION IN WEST VIRGINIA ON DEPENDENCY RATIO, WITH DATA ON RATIO OF THOSE UNDER 15 AND THOSE 65 YEARS AND OVER TO THOSE AGED 20-64

CITY	DEPENDENCY RATIO	NUMBER PERSONS UNDER 15 YEARS PER 100 PERSONS AGED 20-64	NUMBER PERSONS 65 YEARS AND OVER PER 100 PERSONS AGED 20-64
So. Parkersburg	65.8	56.1	9.7
Parkersburg	55.8	37.0	18.8
Wheeling	54.4	37.2	17.2
Martinsburg	53.6	41.6	12.0
Moundsville	53.2	39.4	13.8
Weirton	52.5	45.5	7.0
Huntington	52.3	39.6	12.7
So. Charleston	52.1	45.9	6.2
Clarksburg	51.2	37.1	14.1
Fairmont	50.3	36.9	13.4
Bluefield	49.3	38.4	10.9
Charleston	49.2	38.5	10.7
Beckley	48.8	39.9	8.9
Morgantown*	44.4	33.2	11.2

*These figures do not indicate what Morgantown would be without the influence of 5,000 students ages about 18-24 upon the ratios.

tion in the State. (See pp. 21). The high estimate of school-age population for 1960 is 811,488 or 34,396 more than the 1940 figure of 777,092. The low estimate is 771,933 or 5,159 less than the 1940 figure. The high estimate for 1965 is 875,781 or an increase of 98,689 over the 1940 figure. The low estimate is 798,509 or 21,417 more than the 1940 figures. Table 13 presents figures for the school-age population projections from 1940 through 1965.

What about that portion of the school-age population available for higher education? If we take the 15-24 age group as a basis, none of the estimates for 1965 indicates as large a population in this age group as was found in the State in 1940! In 1940, there were 379,313 persons aged 15-24 in the State. The highest estimate found in Table 13 for this age group is 375,030 in 1965, which is 4,283 less than the 1940 figure!

School enrollments, however, are influenced by another factor the percentage of the school-age population that actually enrolls in school. The total school enrollment, aged 5-24, in 1950 was 438,285. This amounted to 60.6 per cent of the 1950 school-age population. In the Urban areas, the percentage was 59.8. The Rural Non-Farm percentage was 59.7, and the Rural Farm percentage was 63.8.

School enrollments in the State had an increase of 20,149 students during the 1930-1940 decade, an increase of 1/10 of 1 per cent. From 1940 to 1950, a 4 per cent increase occurred in the percentage of the school-age population enrolled in school. In spite of this increase the

TABLE 12. RANK ORDER OF SMALLER CITIES IN DEPENDENCY RATIO WITH RATIO OF POPULATION UNDER 15 AND THOSE 65 YEARS AND OVER TO THE 20-64 AGE POPULATION INDICATED SEPARATELY

CITY (2,500-10,000)	DEPENDENCY RATIO	NUMBER PERSONS UNDER 15 YEARS PER 100 PERSONS AGED 20-64	NUMBER PERSONS 65 YRS. AND OVER PER 100 PERSONS AGED 20-64
:Comas	91.2	83.4	7.8
:rdunville-Mudford	86.8	79.7	7.1
ar	86.8	80.6	6.2
nar-Barnabus	84.3	78.4	5.9
rague	75.9	65.5	10.4
int Pleasant	71.1	55.3	15.8
armet	71.0	60.9	10.1
nnington	68.7	46.8	21.9
enna	68.5	54.0	14.5
chwood	68.2	55.2	13.0
ra-Mt. Gay	67.5	59.3	8.2
afton	65.7	46.1	19.6
lem	65.2	43.9	21.3
. Albans	64.2	57.5	7.7
ry-Ream	63.8	57.4	6.4
edmont	63.5	47.0	16.5
arles Town	63.0	31.4	21.6
nova	63.0	48.7	14.3
esapeake	62.0	54.0	8.0
. Hope	60.7	48.5	12.2
illippi	60.3	40.2	20.1
tro	60.0	51.3	8.7
encer	60.0	41.1	18.9
ellsburg	60.0	44.1	15.9
estover	60.0	59.7	10.3
ckbannon	57.6	37.9	19.7
nton	57.6	40.3	17.3
yser	57.5	41.0	16.5
nnston	57.5	41.7	15.8
kins	57.0	41.3	15.7
w Martinsville	56.5	38.3	18.2
den City	56.3	41.3	15.0
k Hill	55.1	45.1	10.0
nwood	54.6	40.8	13.8
illiamson	54.1	45.2	8.9
inceton	53.9	50.8	13.1
nbar	53.1	45.9	7.2
Mecben	51.9	37.7	14.2
llansbee	51.5	39.7	11.8
ystone	51.4	43.4	8.0
hite Sulphur Spgs.	51.2	38.8	12.4
ston	50.6	27.9	22.7
liens	49.8	43.8	6.0
gan	43.9	35.9	8.0
elch	41.0	34.8	6.2
ntgomery	40.0	29.0	11.0
ester	33.5	17.9	15.6

ze of school enrollment actually decreased by 2,818 persons during the ecade.

If the increase in the percentage of the school-age population enolled in school from 1950 to 1960 is as great as that from 1940 to 1950,

Table 13. School-Age Population in West Virginia (5-24 Years for 1940 and 1950, With Estimates of Population in These Ages for 1960 and 1965, by Age Groups and Totals for 5-24 Years and 15-24 Years

Age Group	1940	1950	1960		1965	
			High Estimate	Low Estimate	High Estimate	Low Estimate
5-9	191,987	205,390	253,333	240,984	240,787	219,541
10-14	205,792	190,979	243,034	231,188	259,964	237,027
15-19	205,836	166,440	179,186	170,452	217,347	198,170
20-24	173,477	159,550	135,935	129,309	157,683	143,771
Total (5-24 Yrs.)	777,092	722,359	811,488	771,933	875,781	798,509
Total (15-24 Yrs.)	379,313	325,990	315,121	299,761	375,030	341,941

Figures for 1960 and 1965 are derived from calculations assuming that the chan in age groups in West Virginia will be comparable to similar changes in the Unit States as a whole. The results of such a procedure have been found to be a little t high, especially when we consider that the State is not expected to grow at a ra comparable to the population in the U.S. as a whole. Therefore, on the basis of t calculations utilized here, it could well be possible that the 1960 and 1965 figures a higher than they may be expected to be unless drastic changes occur in the State.

by 1960 about 65 per cent of the school-age population would be e rolled. This percentage of the highest estimate of school-age populatio for 1960 (811,488) gives a school enrollment of 527,467. This figure woul be 87,344 more than the enrollment in 1940. This percentage of t lowest estimate of the 1960 school-age population (771,933) gives school enrollment of 501,756. This would be about 61,633 more tha the 1940 enrollment. Table 14 indicates the changes in the percenta of the school-age population enrolled in school from 1910 to 1950.

Education of the State Population

The West Virginia educational trend is toward an increasing nu ber of school years completed. In 1940, 18 per cent of the population

Table 14. Percentage of the School-Age Population (Ages 5-2 Enrolled in School from 1910 to 1950, by Age Groups

Age Group	(Percent Enrolled by Years)				
	1950	1940	1930	1920	1910
Total Age					
5 and 6 Yrs.	36.6	28.7	29.2	31.1	28.8
7-13 Yrs.	95.2	95.9	94.1	89.1	87.8
14-15 Yrs.	91.1	88.8	86.2	82.3	79.7
16-17 Yrs.	65.2	57.6	49.8	42.3	48.4
18-19 Yrs.	27.2	25.7	23.7	16.5	22.3
20-24 Yrs.	9.3	5.2	6.8	na	na
5-19 Yrs.	75.0	71.4	69.5	65.2	64.5
5-24 Yrs.	60.6	56.6	56.5	na	na

na—Not available

ears and over had completed high school. The 1950 figure was 24.9 per cent. The median years schooling completed by the group in 1940 was 7.8; by 1950, 8.3 years.

Looking at the median years of schooling completed in 1950 by residence grouping, the highest median was found in the cities of 10,000 and over (10.5), followed closely by the Central Cities (10.2). The median years completed for the metropolitan counties was 8.7. This median was higher than the State median which was influenced by the lower median (8.1) in the non-metropolitan counties. Table 15 indicates the amount of schooling of the State population with a breakdown for both rural-urban and metropolitan-non-metropolitan counties.

The median years of schooling completed in 1950 in cities of 10,000 and over ranged from 8.8 for Moundsville to 12.1 for South Charleston. Five of the fourteen cities involved had a median of less than 10 years schooling completed. (See Table 9.)

The median years schooling completed in the smaller towns in 1950 was lower than in the larger cities. It ranged from 6.2 years (Vernlunville-Mudford) to 12.1 years (St. Albans). The majority of the small towns had a median of 10 years or less completed. Only 13 of the 47 towns had a median of 10 years or more.

The median years schooling completed for the counties in 1950 ranged from 7.5 in Clay County to 9.3 in Cabell County. Thirty-six of the 55 counties had a median between 8.0 and 8.5 years. (See Table 10.)

TABLE 15. YEARS OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED BY POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER, BY RURAL-URBAN AND METROPOLITAN-NON-METROPOLITAN RESIDENCE

RESIDENCE	PER CENT OF POPULATION HAVING COMPLETED YEARS INDICATED			
			COLLEGE	
	8 YRS. OR LESS	9-12 YRS.	1-3 YEARS	4 OR MORE YEARS
State Total	61.8	28.2	5.6	4.4
Urban	46.2	37.9	8.5	7.4
Rural Non-Farm	68.0	25.2	4.0	2.8
Rural Farm	80.2	15.1	3.1	1.6
Metropolitan Counties	54.7	33.7	6.2	5.4
Central Cities	43.2	40.3	8.4	8.1
Rest of Metropolitan Counties	63.0	29.5	4.8	3.7
Non-Metropolitan Counties	65.3	25.5	5.3	3.9
Cities of 10,000 and Over	42.4	38.7	10.2	8.7
Rest of Non-Metropolitan Counties	69.4	23.2	4.4	3.0

The Labor Force

The "labor force" includes that part of the population which, at some time during a year, helps support the total population by working. In 1950, there were 692,105 males and 707,775 females 14 years of age and over in the State. Of these totals, 76.2 per cent of the males and 19.5 per cent of the females were listed in the State's labor force.

Some decrease appeared among the males from 1940 to 1950 in all age groups 16 years and over in the labor force. An increase occurred in the number of males listed aged 14 and 15 years. It is interesting to note the large percentage of older men still included in the labor force. In 1950, 56 per cent of the males aged 65-69, 41 per cent of those aged 70-74, and 21 per cent of those 75 years and over were listed in the labor force.

Females in the labor force increased by at least 3 per cent in all age groups from 1940 to 1950. Most noticeable increases were in the 35-44 age group, where the percentage increased from 16.8 in 1940 to 24.2 in 1950; in the 45-54 age group, with an increase from 13.8 to 21.7 per cent, and in the 55-64 age group, with an increase from 9.9 to 15.4 per cent.

Considering the labor force by rural-urban residence, a greater percentage of Urban females are found in the labor force than in either rural group. Twenty-nine per cent of the Urban females were in the labor force in 1950, as compared with 14.3 per cent of the Rural Non-Farm and 9.8 per cent of the Rural Farm women. Urban females and males enter the labor force earlier in life than do their country cousins. In older age groups, the Rural Farm group has more males and the Urban group has more females in the labor force than do other residence groups.

Figure 10 indicates the changes in the percentage of females and males involved in the labor force by age, from 1940 to 1950. Figure 11 indicates the percentage of females and males in the labor force according to rural-urban residence. Figure 12 indicates the age breakdown of females in the labor force by rural-urban residence.

The Rural Non-Farm and the Rural Farm groups exhibit similar patterns in the participation of women in the labor force until about age 39. The Rural Farm group participation begins to decline rapidly beyond age 39, whereas in the Rural Non-Farm group an increase continues in the number of women working until age 44. Beyond this, the Rural Non-Farm group exhibits a continuing decrease in the percentage of women involved in the labor force.

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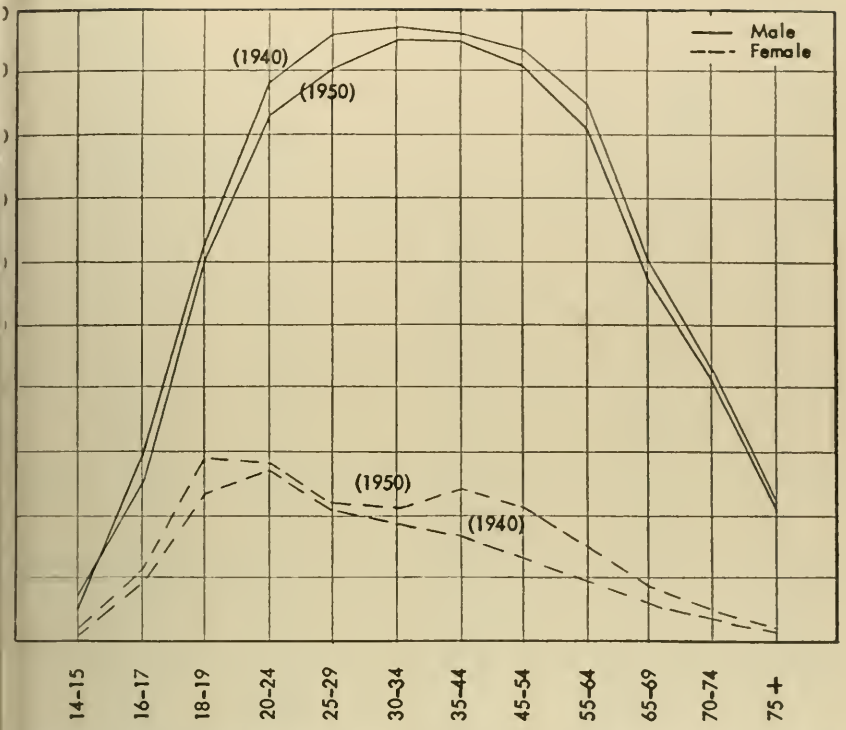


URE 10. Percentage of males and females in West Virginia labor force, age, 1940 and 1950.

cupations of West Virginia People

In April, 1950, 628,157 people were employed in West Virginia: ,781 (79 per cent) were males and 132,376 (21 per cent) were ales. This represented an increase of 21 per cent over the total em- yed in 1940. This increase included a 16.9 per cent increase in males ployed and a 39.8 per cent increase in females employed. The popu- on 14 years and over in West Virginia increased by 46,831 females l only 3,799 males from 1940 to 1950. As a result the females now number the males in the labor force age range (not in the actual labor ce) by 27,362 persons!

Table 16 shows the number of persons employed in the State in 0 by sex and by the various occupational groupings used in the S. Census reports. The increases or decreases in number employed in h of these occupations from 1940 to 1950 are also given. The greatest nber of people (31.5 per cent of all employed in the State) were em-

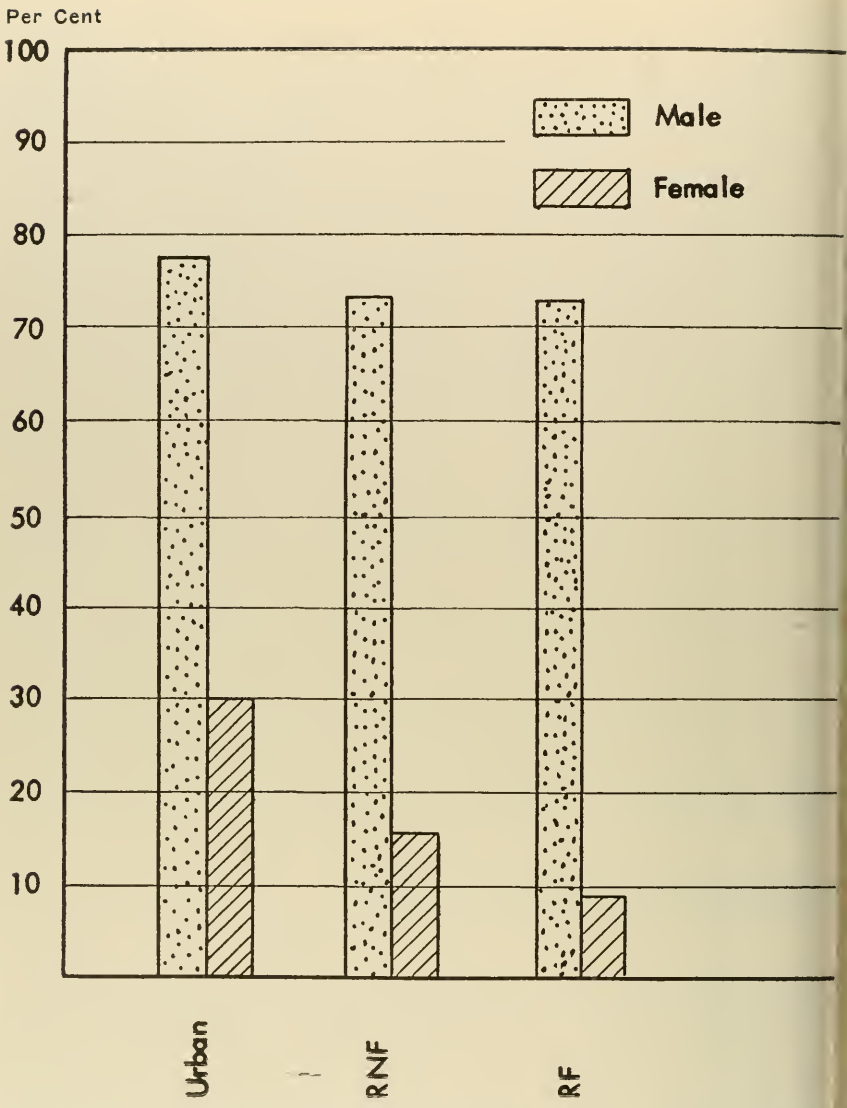
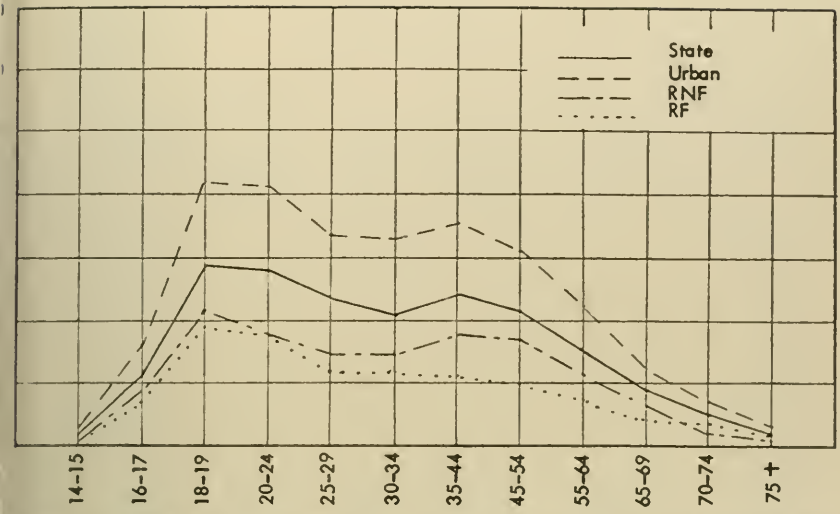


FIGURE 11. Percentage of males and females in West Virginia labor for by rural-urban residence, 1950

ployed in the *Operatives and Kindred Workers* grouping. The occup tional grouping listed as *Craftsmen, Foremen and Kindred Workers* ran ed second, employing 14.6 per cent of the working persons in the Sta These two occupational groupings also exhibited the greatest numeric increase in the number employed from 1940 to 1950.



GURE 12. Percentage of females in West Virginia labor force, by age and ·al-urban residence, 1950.

The greatest decrease in number of people employed from 1940 to 50 occurred in the occupational grouping of *Farmers and Farm Man-*ers, which lost some 12,882 persons. Private *Household Workers* lost 54, and *Farm Laborers, Unpaid and Family Workers* had a loss 5,163. The decreases which occurred in the occupations dealing with ming were mainly decreases in the employment of males. The de-ase in number employed in household services was largely a de-ase in females.

The greatest increase in the employment of males came in the areas using the most employees in the State—*Operatives and Kin-d Workers,* and *Craftsmen, Foremen and Kindred Workers.* The y other category in which the number of males employed increased by 00 workers or more was in *Clerical and Kindred Workers.*

Nearly half the increase in females employed from 1940 to 1950 ne in the category *Clerical and Kindred Workers,* with an increase 14,378. The number of females employed in the State increased by 00 or more workers in the following categories: *Sales Workers, Opera-es and Kindred Workers,* and *Service Workers, Except Private House-d.* In the *Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers,* the amount increase was just under 5,000 workers for both males and females.

Males and females are found in comparatively equal numbers in following occupational groupings: *Professional, Technical and ndred Workers, Clerical and Kindred Workers, Sales Workers,* and

TABLE 16. NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND SEX, 1950, INCREASE OR DECREASE IN NUMBER EMPLOYED FRO 1940 TO 1950

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP	TOTAL		MALES		FEMALES	
	NO. EMPLOYED IN 1950	INCREASE OR DECREASE 1940-50	NO. EMPLOYED 1950	INCREASE OR DECREASE 1940-50	NO. EMPLOYED 1950	INCREAS OR DECREAS 1940-19
State Total	628,157	109,263	495,781	71,576	132,376	37,687
Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers	45,701	9,036	24,990	4,818	20,711	4,218
Farmers and Farm Managers	37,225	—12,882	36,366	—12,168	859	— 71
Officials and Proprietors, Except Farm	46,416	12,431	39,625	9,267	6,791	
Clerical and Kindred Workers	52,858	19,109	23,112	4,735	29,746	3,16 14,37
Sales Workers	38,974	10,068	21,886	1,813	17,088	8,25
Craftsmen, Foremen, and Kindred Workers	90,506	30,510	89,015	29,979	1,491	80
Operatives and Kindred Workers	194,605	36,950	175,356	30,700	19,249	6,25
Private Household Workers	12,078	—9,454	480	— 168	11,598	—9,28
Service Worker Except Private Household	36,685	11,872	17,439	3,287	19,246	8,58
Farm Laborers, Unpaid Family Workers	9,257	—5,163	8,316	— 5,448	941	28
Farm Laborers, Except Unpaid, and Farm Foremen	13,928	— 470	13,602	— 679	326	20
Laborers, Except Farm and Mine	40,226	2,640	38,993	2,291	1,233	34
Occupation Not Reported	9,698		6,601		3,097	

Service Workers, Except Private Household. Females outnumber t males in two categories: *Clerical and Kindred Workers,* and *Serv Workers, Except Private Household.*

Table 17 gives a picture of the distribution of employment in t State by sex and by occupational groupings for 1940 and 1950. P centages are figured on the total employed in the State, giving an

Table 17. Per Cent Distribution of Employed Persons by Major Occupation Group and Sex, 1950 and 1940*

Major Occupation Group	Per Cent Distribution by Sex and Year					
	Total		Male		Female	
	1950	1940	1950	1940	1950	1940
Total Reporting						
Number	628,157	518,894	495,781	424,205	132,376	94,689
Per Cent	100.0	100.0	78.9	81.8	21.1	18.2
Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers	7.4	7.1	4.0	3.9	3.3	3.2
Farmers and Farm Managers	6.0	9.8	5.8	9.4	—	—
Managers, Officials and Proprietors, Except Farm	7.5	6.6	6.3	5.9	1.1	—
Clerical and Kindred Workers	8.5	6.6	3.7	3.5	4.8	3.0
Sales Workers	6.3	5.6	3.5	3.9	2.7	1.7
Craftsmen, Foremen, and Kindred Workers	14.6	11.7	14.2	11.4	—	—
Operatives and Kindred Workers	31.5	30.7	27.9	27.9	3.1	2.5
Private Household Workers	2.0	4.2	—	—	1.9	4.0
Service Workers Except Private Household	5.9	4.8	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.1
Farm Laborers, Unpaid Family Workers	1.5	2.8	1.3	2.7	—	—
Farm Laborers, Except Unpaid, and Farm Foremen	2.3	2.8	2.2	2.8	—	—
Laborers, Except Farm and Mine	6.5	7.3	6.2	7.1	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	77.9	81.2	20.0	16.5

*Figures for the separate male and female percentages are calculated from the total employed in the State, not from the separate male and female employed totals.
—This symbol refers to the fact that the percentage is below one per cent and therefore has not been considered for this table.

dication of how many women are found in particular occupational groupings in relation to the number of men found in each. It is interesting to note that in some of the occupational groupings, such as *Craftsmen, Foremen and Kindred Workers*, the percentage increase in number of females employed is tremendously high. There are but few women employed in occupations of that category, but percentage-wise, they increased more than 100 per cent from 1940 to 1950.

Major Industries and the Population

The leading industry in the State in 1950 was *Mining,* employing 21.7 per cent of the total employed. *Manufacturing* ranked second, employing 19.2 per cent. *Wholesale and Retail Trade* employed 15.8 per cent and *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries* employed 10.0 per cent.

In the Urban world, the leading industry was *Manufacturing,* followed by the *Wholesale and Retail Trade, Transportation and Commerce,* and *Professional and Related Services.* In the Rural Non-Farm areas, the pattern was the same as that for the State as a whole, except that *Transportation* ranked fourth, in place of *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.* In the Rural Farm world, *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries* led in employment, followed by *Mining, Manufacturing,* and *Wholesale and Retail Trade.*

Though *Mining* is the leading industry in the State, if 1940-1950 figures can be taken as an indication, it is beginning to lose its prominence. From 1940 to 1950 the number of persons employed in *Mining* increased, but the percentage of the total population employed was less in 1950 than it had been in 1940. (The total population base was larger from which the percentage were computed.) Meanwhile, *Manufacturing,* and *Wholesale and Retail Trade* both exhibited noticeable increases in the percentage of total population employed over the same period of time.

Numerically, the greatest increase in employed population from 1940 to 1950 occurred in *Wholesale and Retail Trades* (33,084), followed by *Manufacturing* (27,979). The greatest numerical decrease occurred in *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries* (18,023). The only other industry showing a decline in population employed was *Personal, Entertainment and Recreation Services.* Table 18 indicates the employment of population by the four leading industries in the State and by rural-urban groupings.

The decrease in *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries* from 1940 to 1950 involved both men and women. Although the number of females employed in *Personal, Entertainment, and Recreation Services* decreased, the number of males employed therein increased.

Greatest increases in number of males employed over the decade were in the *Wholesale and Retail Trades* (13,907), *Mining* (10,033), and *Manufacturing* (9,807). Greatest increases in number of females employed came in *Wholesale and Retail Trade* (19,177, the biggest increase over the decade for either sex), and in *Professional and Related Services* (8,658).

Table 18. Leading Industries In West Virginia by Percentage of Employed Workers Utilized, Classified by Rural-Urban Residence

Leading Industries in State	Per Cent Employed	Leading Industries (Urban)	Per Cent Employed	Leading Industries RNF*	Per Cent Employed	Leading Industries RF**	Per Cent Employed
1. Mining	21.7	Mfg.	26.0	Mining	39.9	Agr.	46.0
2. Mfg.	19.2	Trade	22.4	Mfg.	14.9	Mining	16.4
3. Trade	15.8	Transp. & Commerce	10.9	Trade	13.2	Mfg.	12.6
4. Agr. Etc.	10.0	Prof & Rel. Serv.	10.4	Transp.	7.6	Trade	5.7
Total Population Employed	628,157		265,172		247,577		115,408

*RNF—Rural Non-farm
**RF—Rural Farm

Some interesting trends appear in the employment of males and females by industries. Males make up the majority of workers in most industries except *Personal, Entertainment and Recreation Services* and the *Professional and Related Services.* Only a small difference appears in the number of males and females employed in the *Wholesale and Retail Trade* and in *Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.* Table 19 indicates the employment of the State population by industry, sex, and rural-urban residence.

The percentage of the labor force in each county employed in each of the four leading West Virginia industries is given in Table 20. It further indicates the change in percentage employed from 1940 to 1950. Greatest increases in the leading industry, *Mining,* came in Lincoln, Mingo, Nicholas and Webster counties. Greatest decreases in *Mining* came in Putnam, Raleigh, Mineral and Tucker counties.

Manufacturing, the second leading industry, had its greatest increases in Pocahontas, Putnam, Monroe and Clay counties. Mineral, Harrison and Berkeley counties had the only decreases in this industry.

Wholesale and Retail Trade, the third ranking industry, experienced from a 1.4 per cent to a 5.7 per cent increase in all counties except Harrison, which had a 2.0 per cent decrease.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, the fourth leading industry, experienced a decrease in percentage of population employed in all but seven counties. The greatest decreases came in Clay, Nicholas, Wyoming and Putnam counties. Most of the increases in number employed in this industry over the decade were below 5 per cent. Exceptions, however, were Calhoun, Pendleton, and Webster counties.

TABLE 19. PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED MALES AND FEMALES PER MAJOR INDUSTRY, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE WITH INDUSTRY RANKED

STATE				URBAN				RURAL NON-FARM				RURAL FARM			
MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE	
INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%	INDUSTRY	%
Mining	27.1	Trade	29.1	Mfg.	29.2	Trade	28.7	Min.	47.4	Trade	32.4	Agr.	49.1	Prof.	24.7
Mfg.	19.9	Prof.	21.7	Trade	19.7	Prof.	21.0	Mfg.	15.1	Prof.	22.3	Min.	18.1	Trade	20.5
Agr.	12.2	Pers. Serv.	17.0	Transp.	13.4	Mfg.	18.6	Trade	9.5	Pers. Serv.	18.0	Mfg.	12.5	Agr.	17.4
Trade	12.2	Mfg.	16.5	Min.	10.0	Pers. Serv.	16.9	Transp.	8.4	Mfg	13.2	Transp.	5.7	Pers. Serv.	14.1
Transp.	9.7	Transp.	4.5	Const.	7.4	Transp.	5.4	Fin.	7.2	Pub. Adm.	4.7	Const.	5.4	Mfg.	13.4
Const.	6.4	Pub. Adm.	4.0	Prof.	5.9	Pub. Adm.	3.6	Const.	5.9	Transp.	3.4	Trade	4.1	Pub. Adm.	4.3
Prof.	4.0	Fin.	2.8	Pers. Serv.	4.7	Fin.	3.5	Agr.	4.0	Mining	2.4	Prof.	2.0	Transp.	2.2
								Prof.	3.2						
Total	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0
Total Populations:															
495,781		132,376		185,304		79,868		206,655		40,922		103,822		11,586	

Marital Status of the State Population

Marriage was more popular in West Virginia in 1950 than in 1940 —but so was divorce! In 1950, 69 per cent of the males and 68.5 per cent of the females 15 years of age and over were married. These figures represent an increase of 7.6 per cent for males and 5.1 per cent for females over the 1940 figures. The greatest increase in the percentage married, for both males and females, appeared in ages 20-29. A 1 per cent increase in divorce among both males and females, and a 1 per cent increase in number of females widowed appeared over the decade.

Males exhibited a decrease in percentage widowed in all age groups except ages 15-24. Females had a decrease in all age groups in percentage widowed except ages 15-19 and 55-65. The greatest increase for both males and females in percentage divorced came in the 45-54 age group. However, from age 25 years up, males exhibited an increase of about 1 per cent, whereas females had slightly more than 1 per cent increase in ages 25-54, and decreased thereafter.

The highest percentage of married males was found in the Urban group (71 per cent), followed by the Rural Non-Farm and then the Rural Farm group. Both the Rural Non-Farm and the Urban groups had a higher percentage of married males than the State as a whole.

Rural Farm males are the slowest to get married, but they appear to remain married longer than the other groups. The Rural Non-Farm group had a higher percentage of married males than the other residence groups—until age 65, at which age the Rural Farm males lead. Figure 13 indicates the percentage of males, 15 years and over, married, by age and rural-urban residence in 1950.

Urban and Rural Non-Farm females have a somewhat lower percentage married than the percentage for the State as a whole. As with the males, Rural Farm females are slower to marry. Rural Farm males and females seem to survive marriage longer than either of the other groups. Figure 14 indicates the percentage of females 15 years and over, married, by age and rural-urban residence, in 1950.

The highest divorce rate was found among Urban females and the lowest among Rural Farm females. The Urban group has the highest divorce rate in the State for both males and females and the Rural Farm group has the lowest.

There seems to be no one age group in which divorces are concentrated. A jump in percentage appeared at age 25, reaching a percentage peak for females in the 35-44 age group, and for males in the 45-54 age group. Minor fluctuation appeared in this pattern between the various rural-urban residence groups. Rural Farm females exhibited the widest variation in pattern, reaching the percentage peak in divorce

Table 20. Percentage of County Labor Force in Four Leading Industries, With Gain or Loss in Percentage of Labor Force Employed in Given Industry from 1940-1950

County	Per Cent Labor Force Employed in Mining	Per Cent Labor Force Employed in Mfg.	Per Cent Labor Force Employed in Wholesale & Retail Trade	Per Cent Labor Force Employed in Agr., For. & Fish.	Increase or Decrease in Per Cent of Labor Force Employed from 1940 to 1950 in Following Industries			
					Mining	Manufacturing	Wholesale & Retail Trade	Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Barbour	30.4	5.2	8.8	24.0	7.4	3.5	3.0	+ 1.1
Berkeley	4.4	26.9	13.3	12.9	— .4	— .5	3.9	— 3.7
Boone	55.0	5.0	10.7	2.1	11.9	3.8	3.2	— 2.7
Braxton	10.2	4.2	10.0	40.6	7.3	3.3	4.7	— 5.2
Brooke	7.2	49.9	11.5	2.4	— .6	5.7	3.1	— 1.0
Cabell	.9	24.1	20.9	3.5	.5	6.1	4.8	— .3
Calhoun	9.3	4.8	8.5	49.4	8.9	4.3	3.7	+ 9.4
Clay	34.2	14.3	8.9	15.2	18.4	13.8	4.7	—20.1
Doddridge	9.0	12.0	9.7	34.5	8.3	9.7	5.0	+ .1
Fayette	49.5	8.4	11.3	2.4	.1	4.5	4.1	— 2.2
Gilmer	11.8	9.9	7.8	40.6	10.2	9.4	3.6	— 6.3
Grant	5.6	11.0	11.2	40.8	1.4	7.7	3.8	+ 2.1
Greenbrier	19.2	7.6	13.4	15.6	4.6	5.8	5.5	— 6.8
Hampshire	.3	10.2	9.4	41.1	.2	7.0	1.9	— 1.1
Hancock	1.2	64.6	11.5	1.3	.3	4.5	2.4	— .4
Hardy	.2	11.9	9.5	46.7	.0	9.3	4.4	.0
Harrison	9.8	12.9	11.7	2.9	.4	— 3.5	— 2.0	— 3.7
Jackson	4.1	8.3	11.4	43.6	3.8	4.4	4.3	— 8.8
Jefferson	7.6	16.4	11.9	22.9	— .9	8.0	2.7	— 3.7
Kanawha	12.1	29.1	20.4	1.5	.2	8.4	6.0	— 1.3
Lewis	9.8	15.8	13.1	22.1	9.2	7.1	4.8	— 2.3
Lincoln	22.0	11.8	8.5	27.2	19.5	9.8	3.5	+ .3
Logan	59.4	2.7	11.9	1.9	7.8	1.5	3.9	— 1.2
McDowell	76.0	2.2	10.6	1.1	12.7	1.5	4.0	— .4
Marion	26.1	18.5	14.9	3.6	— .3	8.3	4.6	— 1.8
Marshall	6.1	38.7	12.7	10.0	1.2	6.6	3.2	— 3.0
Mason	4.4	11.3	10.2	27.6	1.9	1.5	3.8	— 8.6
Mercer	19.6	8.8	17.9	5.4	.2	4.9	5.0	— 4.0
Mineral	3.0	21.3	13.2	10.0	— 1.8	— 1.2	4.2	— 1.1
Mingo	48.7	3.8	13.4	1.5	18.5	2.4	4.8	— 1.3

TABLE 20. (CONTINUED)

COUNTY	PER CENT LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED IN MINING	PER CENT LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED IN MFG.	PER CENT LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED IN WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	PER CENT LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED IN AGR., FOR. & FISH.	INCREASE OR DECREASE IN PER CENT OF LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED FROM 1940 TO 1950 IN FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES			
					MINING	MANUFACTURING	WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Monongalia	25.3	15.7	14.5	4.2	3.1	9.0	3.1	— 2.5
Monroe	2.4	18.3	7.0	42.4	2.0	15.6	3.7	— 4.4
Morgan	7.5	22.9	8.0	20.8	4.4	11.6	1.4	— 2.8
Nicholas	39.8	14.0	9.3	10.7	32.2	6.3	3.8	—16.3
Ohio	5.4	27.2	23.2	1.9	.5	3.4	5.5	— .6
Pendleton	.3	10.3	7.1	56.6	.1	9.5	3.1	+10.1
Pleasants	6.9	20.2	11.5	20.3	6.3	8.0	3.8	— 6.8
Pocahontas	3.0	26.8	8.4	28.1	2.6	20.3	1.4	.0
Preston	27.2	10.1	9.7	17.1	15.0	7.1	3.5	— 6.6
Putnam	4.4	31.0	10.2	22.0	— 6.2	17.5	5.4	—10.0
Raleigh	47.2	4.4	14.2	2.8	— 3.1	2.8	5.4	— 2.0
Randolph	14.3	14.2	14.6	13.7	10.9	9.8	5.6	— 1.2
Ritchie	9.5	13.9	9.4	31.2	9.4	9.5	2.0	+ .2
Roane	6.2	9.8	10.8	38.5	6.0	7.9	3.6	+ 2.7
Summers	4.9	7.5	10.7	22.9	3.4	6.9	2.9	— 9.6
Taylor	14.1	15.8	13.1	7.6	5.1	9.8	5.1	— 1.5
Tucker	14.6	14.2	10.8	20.2	— 1.7	7.1	3.7	+ 4.2
Tyler	5.7	21.8	12.0	24.9	5.6	12.0	2.6	— 3.6
Upshur	17.6	9.3	12.7	21.2	11.9	6.3	4.4	— 6.6
Wayne	8.1	20.4	13.8	15.3	5.9	11.5	5.7	— 2.4
Webster	42.1	6.6	8.4	13.5	22.9	6.4	3.5	+ 5.3
Wetzel	7.4	23.1	13.3	18.6	6.8	12.5	5.1	— 3.0
Wirt	3.9	9.4	8.5	49.7	3.9	5.5	3.7	+ 1.5
Wood	1.2	31.3	19.5	6.0	1.1	1.2	5.6	— 2.3
Wyoming	53.4	6.4	9.0	4.7	13.6	6.0	2.7	—11.4

FIGURE 13. Percentage of West Virginia males, 15 years and over, ma ried, by age and rural-urban residence, 1950.

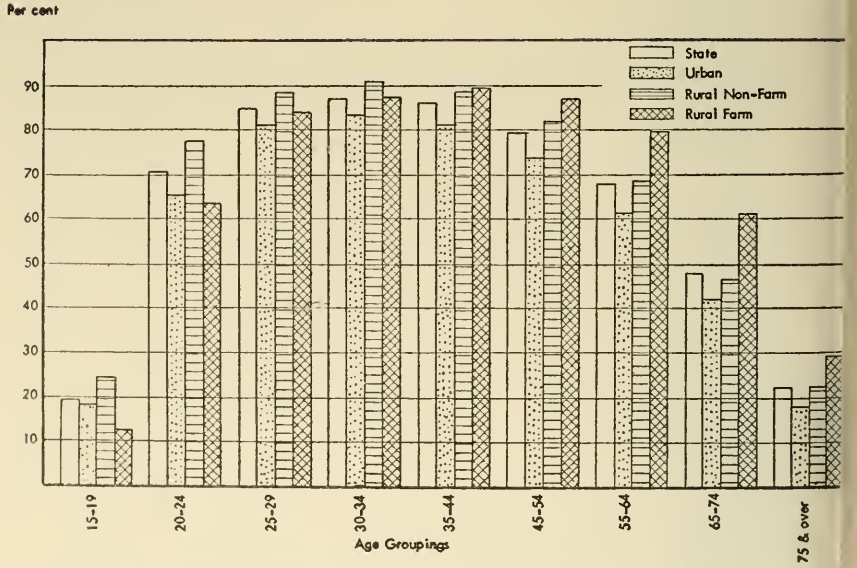


FIGURE 14. Percentage of West Virginia females, 15 years and over, ma ried, by age and rural-urban residence, 1950.

in ages 25-29. This suggests that if Rural Farm women divorce, they do it early in marriage. Table 21 indicates the percentage of the population divorced by age, sex and rural-urban residence in 1950.

The Urban group has the greatest concentration of widows. The Rural Farm group has the most widowers. The Rural Farm women tend to marry later in life than their resident neighbors in the cities. They are also less likely to become widows, despite the presence of many widowers in the Rural Farm population. Perhaps this is indicative that widows tend to leave the Rural Farm areas for the towns and cities.

The pattern of widowing among males does not reach serious consideration until about age 65. For females, it begins to surge upwards in the 45-54 age period and increases steadily thereafter. Only 3.5 per cent of all males 15 years and over are widowers, compared with 10.5 per cent of the females. Table 22 indicates the percentage of the population widowed by age, sex, and rural-urban residence.

TABLE 21. PERCENTAGE OF WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION, 15 YEARS AND OVER, DIVORCED, BY AGE, SEX, AND RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE

AGE GROUP	STATE		URBAN		RURAL NON-FARM		RURAL-FARM	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
15-19	0.1	0.2	—	0.8	0.1	0.3	—	0.1
20-24	0.9	1.7	1.0	2.0	0.9	1.4	0.8	1.6
25-29	1.9	2.8	2.1	3.8	1.7	2.2	1.4	1.9*
30-34	2.2	3.1	3.1	4.7	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.8
35-44	2.5	3.4*	3.2	5.2*	2.2	2.5	1.9	1.5
45-54	2.9*	3.0	3.6*	4.3	2.7*	2.6*	2.1*	1.0
55-64	2.4	2.1	3.0	2.9	2.5	1.9	1.4	0.9
65-74	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.3	2.5	1.5	1.1	0.7
75 plus ..	1.3	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
Average	1.9	2.3	2.4	3.3	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.0

*Indicates point of peak percentage in each case.

TABLE 22. PERCENTAGE OF WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION, 15 YEARS AND OVER, WIDOWED, BY AGE, SEX, AND RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE

AGE GROUP	STATE		URBAN		RURAL NON-FARM		RURAL-FARM	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
15-19	—	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	—	0.1
20-24	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5
25-29	0.2	1.2	0.3	1.1	0.1	1.1	1.9*	1.4
30-34	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.8	0.4	1.9	0.3	1.7
35-44	0.9	4.4	0.9	5.3	0.9	4.2	0.8	2.8
45-54	2.9	11.7	3.0	14.0	2.9	11.7	2.7	7.1
55-64	7.1	24.6	6.9	28.7	8.0	25.9	5.8	14.8
65-74	17.0	44.1	17.6	48.8	19.1	46.6	13.6	31.9
75 plus ..	35.9	68.9	37.3	71.4	36.6	70.4	33.5	62.5
Average	3.8	10.5	3.9	12.4	3.6	9.4	4.2	9.1

*This high a figure at such a young age appears like a typing mistake, but it is not. Perhaps it is accounted for by the young mothers in the rural-farm world who die in childbirth.

Income in West Virginia

Three thousand dollars or less was the yearly income recorded in the 1950 census for 62 per cent of the population in West Virginia. This percentage was computed on the basis of 1949 figures. Carrying the figures further, it was noted that 77.9 per cent made $4,000 or less, and 35 per cent made less than $2,000. The modal group earned between $2,000 and $3,000. In the Urban world, 45 per cent of the families were making $3,000 or less, as compared with 64.7 per cent of the Rural Non-Farm and 79.9 per cent of the Rural Farm families.

The U. S. Census provides an indication of median income in two categories: *Families,* and *Families and Unrelated Individuals.* The figures in the paragraph above are based on the income of *Families.* Figures for *Families and Unrelated Individuals* are usually lower than figures for *Families.* Table 23 presents the median income for the State and for the rural-urban residence groupings. It indicates the figures for both categories and also compares median incomes in West Virginia with those of the United States as a whole.

TABLE 23. MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS IN WEST VIRGINIA AND IN THE UNITED STATES AS A WHOLE, 1949, BY RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE

RESIDENCE GROUP	FAMILIES		FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS	
	WEST VIRGINIA	UNITED STATES	WEST VIRGINIA	UNITED STATES
State or Nation	$2584	$3073	$2344	$2619
Urban	3209	3431	2778	2970
Rural Non-Farm	2499	2560	2341	2186
Rural Farm	1581	1729	1411	1567

The median income for *Families* in the State fell nearly $500 below that for the U. S. as a whole. Median income of *Families and Unrelated Individuals* did not lag as far behind the U. S. figures. In fact, the Rural Non-Farm group of the State had a higher median income for *Families and Unrelated Individuals* than that found for the Rural Non-Farm group of the U. S. as a whole.

A picture of the median income of cities and counties in the State can be found by referring to Tables 9 and 10. Data are given on median income for both *Families* and *Families and Unrelated Individuals* by counties and by larger cities. Income figures are available only on median income of *Families* for smaller cities.

The median income for *Families and Unrelated Individuals* in cities of 10,000 and over ranged from $4,045 in South Charleston to

$2,463 in Moundsville.[4] The average median income for *Families and Unrelated Individuals* in all the larger cities was $2,841.64. The median income for *Families and Unrelated Individuals* in the smaller Urban Places (2,500-10,000 population), ranged from $4,033 in St. Albans to $1,415 in Buckhannon. The average median income for all the smaller Urban Places was $2,681.83.

The median income for *Families and Unrelated Individuals* in the counties ranged from $3,362 in Hancock to $1,053 in Calhoun. The average median income for all counties was $1,936.18. The median income for *Families* in the counties ranged from $3,596 in Hancock to $1,150 in Calhoun.

There appeared to be a relationship between the size of median income in the county and the amount of loss of population the county experienced from its potential 1950 population. This relationship was tested by statistical correlational techniques. The results tended to support the assumption that the smaller the median income in the county in 1949, the greater the loss from the potential population of the county in 1950.

[4]The median income in this category for Morgantown is given as $1,875. However, once again the school population probably acts as an influence upon the data. The median income for Families in Morgantown is $3,154.